



Volume 1 Number 4

September 2012

# CONTACT!



## **In a little more than a month, the 2012 Poppy Campaign will begin. Are YOU ready to help?**

**With the exception of only two years, each year's campaign has raised more money to help veterans, youth and other worthy causes than the previous campaign – thanks to the dedication of our members.**

**Last year saw the reverse – a DROP of \$10,000 in revenue from the previous record high.**

### **WHY?**

**There were several reasons but the biggest one was that dozens and dozens of donation boxes never made it from the Branch to the stores and offices to collect the money we so badly need to help others. A few volunteers, willing and able to deliver the boxes, periodically check on them and, at the end of the campaign, collect them, would have made a great deal of difference.**

**Sens games also contribute significantly to our poppy revenue – and this year the 67s will be playing their home games at the Scotia Bank Place.**

**Will we have enough volunteers to work all the home games? It depends on YOU – just as the poppy tables in stores and other places depend on your help.**

**PLEASE live up to the vow you took the night you joined the Legion – and help in the campaign.**

**The veterans, our youth and many others are depending on your help.**

## **The Prez Sez:**

The Mad Monday lunch attendance has been falling the last several weeks. There seems to be a lack of interest, therefore, Mad Monday lunch will end on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

In the last several years the Branch has held an appreciation dinner for the Ladies Auxiliary in September, to thank the ladies for their hard work. This year's dinner was held on September 5<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank, Dan Knighton, Brenda Grant, George Pollock and George Medynski for helping me in preparation of the evening.

Thank you to Ray Harris of taking on the project to develop a new extension to our deck.

The Oktoberfest party will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, more information will be sent out shortly.

The Branch is looking to buy a additional bar b que. If anyone has a newer one to donate it will be appreciated.

We are looking for new volunteers, if you can give a few hours a month please contact our volunteer co-ordinator Lynne McPherson at [mlmcperson@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlmcperson@sympatico.ca)

John Cher  
President

## This month's donations

This month, \$250 will be donated to each of the following organizations by our General Trust Fund, which, in turn, is funded from our Bingo revenues:

**The Equipment Loan program of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ottawa-Carleton**

**The Highland Mist Pipe Band's Youth Development activities.**

**The Poppy Trust Fund (subject to Command approval) will donate an additional \$1,000 to The Ottawa Mission, to assist homeless veterans.**

## Highland Mist at the World Championships!

Saturday August 11 was a red letter day for the Highland Mist Pipe Band as they competed at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. Scott Forest, the band's lead drummer, explained the schedule and the challenge. "We played in bone-dry thirty-five degree heat at Maxville the weekend before, then had a day off before the overnighter to Glasgow. Once we got settled in at Glasgow University it was four days of intensive practice in damp, cool conditions before the big day – quite a transition for the instruments and the players." On the plus side, the annual Piping Live festival which runs during World's week provided plenty of entertainment for the more than 250 bands attending. To top it off, Glasgow had its first sunny week in four months!

Band members were universal in their praise for the team-building impact of the trip. Piper George Andras noted that "we contributed to the economy of every major pub in Glasgow – taking care not to leave the whisky shops short of customers either."

The Grade IV B schedule had some 48 bands in two heats, with the top 6 in each heat qualifying for the final. Highland Mist finished just outside the final group, but optimism was the word of the day. "We practiced hard, we played well, and we'll be back in two years to make the finals" said Pipe Major Mark Porter. "We're building in some of our friends from Brighton Legion and we're building our own playing strength and confidence - we've set 2014 as the next big step forward for this band."

The 2012 Championships closed in grand style, as Highland Mist were given the honour of leading the March Past of Bands, while the Grade I duty bands played for the final massed bands.

The following day the band participated in the Perth Highland Games, just north of Glasgow. Again the band performed well and paced 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 9 bands competing. It was a great way to finish off our trip. Branch 638 should be proud indeed!





## From the Second Vice:

On Sunday August 26 the following special occasions were recognized:

### Anniversaries:

Pat and John Cher  
Marg and Ted Burton

### Birthdays:

Lorraine Lapensee  
Nancy Medynski  
P.J. Rose  
Moira Green  
John Cher  
Pat Cher  
Dan Knighton  
Lorne Vincent  
Gord Mc Gaskill  
Ray Harris  
Terry Jenkins

A special time for John and his son who happened to drop into the legion while visiting from Toronto. He celebrated his 80th birthday with us in the lounge. Thanks to Terry Jenkins for bar tending and those who turned out to celebrate with others.

Please sign up for our next event on Sunday September 30th, same time, same place. Hope to see you then.

Thanks  
Moira

# PUB NIGHT

AT THE BRANCH

WITH THE

## GREEN BRIAR

## BAND



*FISH 'N CHIPS /  
COLESLAW / SWEET  
DESSERT  
TEA/COFFEE*

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21,  
2012  
5:30 p.m. reception / 6:15  
p.m. dinner**

**\$10.00/person**

**[pay at the door]**

**We encourage all those interested in attending  
to reserve early on or before**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2012 8:00  
P.M.**

**by getting your name on the sign-up sheet (in the lounge)  
either by**

**Dropping in at the Branch or call 613-591-5570**

**WHEN YOU SUPPORT THE LADIES' AUXILIARY,  
YOU SUPPORT THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
BRANCH #638!**

**NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AND HAVE  
SIGNED UP, PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE TO CANCEL.**

## **The Sergeant at Arms:**

The Colour Party did one of the hardest services we have done for a while. No problem getting volunteers. We attended the Memorial service on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July for our own Comrade Mike Lapensée. It was indeed a sad day.

Five of the colour party attended the Scott Tokessy Ball Tournament held in Kanata on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. A good show, we marched on several Ontario and Quebec ball teams for the opening ceremonies. We seemed to be appreciated and other than the lady who sang the National Anthem, a focal point of the ceremony. I did hear someone say, "No Piper this year?" I said they were off at a gag and practicing hard to get ready for Scotland.

On a personal note I was invited to attend the Dieppe Raid Memorial service at the National War Memorial, 19<sup>th</sup> August. Nice weather and a good turn out, a moving and fitting service. There were at least two other branch members in attendance, comrades Gerry Dore and John Gooch.

The colour party is currently accepting new members, little training required. Just a smile and start off with your left foot.

### **Housing**

The usual summer events at the branch, a few weddings, no major problems

Bob Thomson  
Sgt-at-Arms & Housing

## **VOLUNTEERING AT THE LEGION**

Sometimes we need to be reminded of why we exist as an organization.

Our purpose, as members of the Royal Canadian Legion, is service. We are here to serve the men and women who served in war, the families of servicemen and women who sacrificed their bodies or lives, members of the regular forces, as well as our members, and to assist the society in which we live. To provide this service we must, somehow, raise the money it takes to do this. Some of the many ways we raise funds are: poppy sales, hall rentals, Fish and Chip Fridays, providing bar and catering services, Sunday bingo, special event dinners.

Our branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 638, is comprised solely of volunteers. There are no paid members. From the president and the executive to the bartenders, cooks, dishwashers, as well as those who perform administrative duties and building maintenance, all the unsung heroes behind the scenes, all of these are volunteers.

We need more of our members to help. Right now, it is usually the same people who can be counted on to assist at legion events. However, the more members who volunteer, the less each person has to do. Most volunteer positions require little training. What we need are enthusiastic, friendly people who are willing to go the extra yard (or mile) to help make our legion a success. We need people who enjoy helping out, who obtain satisfaction from a job well done, who will enjoy the socializing and comradeship that is the result of volunteering at the legion.

We need YOU to help make our legion a happy, productive branch. Please volunteer. You will be glad you did.

*When you've shouted 'Rule Britannia', when you've  
sung 'God Save the Queen',  
When you've finished killing Kruger  
with your mouth...*

- Rudyard Kipling, *The Absent-Minded Beggar*

**October 13, 2012 – Fall Harvest Dinner and Dance – a touchdown celebration of The Ladies' Auxiliary's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

***Everyone is welcome!***

5:00 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. dinner  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #638 Kanata,  
70 Hines Road (off of Solandt Road , off of  
March Rd.)  
Serving Salad, Ham, Scalloped Potatoes,  
Roasted Harvest Vegetables, Apple pie and  
pumpkin pie.

Variety music entertainment by the Green  
Briar Band – Sing-a-long Old time Tunes,  
Country Rock, Live Down East music and  
more!

\$15.00/person / \$8.00/under 12 yrs. of age  
– pay at the door. We encourage all those  
interested in attending to **reserve early on  
or before *Tuesday, October 9, 2012 8:00 P.M.***  
by getting your name on the sign-up sheet  
(in the lounge) either by dropping in at the  
Branch or call 613-591-5570.

## **Editor's note:**

We not only welcome, but are ecstatic at the prospect of articles of general interest to our members that are contributed for CONTACT!

Here is the first and it is very fitting that it comes from long-time editor and man-about-the-countryside Garry Fancy.

## **How well do you know your own backyard? Day trips from Kanata**

By  
Garry Fancy

In the waning days of the summer of 2012, the following is offered as some interesting local trips or outings. The author has no vested (pecuniary) interests, but has enjoyed all these sites and many more.

### ***CARP FARMERS MARKET SATURDAYS 08:00 – 13:00***

This a great place to socialize and buy some local produce including Hudson's famous Sweet Corn. Entrance is free, food vendors sell very tasty pizzas, various delicious eggs, and bacon on buns and croissants, to be eaten on the nearby benches. There is always a couple of local musicians, including Seguin who plays beautiful guitar music. Dogs are welcome on leash, in fact many people bring their dogs just to socialize them. There are often special events such as classic cars displays or horse shows held on the grounds as well.  
<http://www.carpfarmersmarket.com/>

### ***RIDEAU KING TOURS***

These boat cruises on the historic Rideau Canal system is one of the "must does" of the summer, and seems a bargain; price includes return transportation to your car. The trip from Merrickville to Westport may be the most scenic as it passes through the Narrows Lock



Details from the website :  
Email [rideauking@bell.net](mailto:rideauking@bell.net)

Tour fees are \$85 per person, Children under 12 \$60, taxes extra - Groups of 10 or more are offered a 10% discount. Call us 9am-6pm at 1-613-269-9342

**CALL IN ADVANCE FOR RESERVATIONS**

\$85 per person, \$60 for children under 12 - taxes extra

50 passenger capacity - Call: 1-613-269-9342 The main cabin of the Rideau King is set up with tables and chairs, windows screened. The upper deck is partially covered by canopy with open bench seating 2 washrooms on board. Light lunch included on board Refreshments and Snacks Available On Board Licensed for Beer and Wine - Served On Board Private Coach return to boarding location

**MONDAYS: MERRICKVILLE to OTTAWA**

**TUESDAYS: OTTAWA to MERRICKVILLE**

**WEDNESDAYS: MERRICKVILLE to WESTPORT**

**THURSDAYS: WESTPORT to MERRICKVILLE**

**FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS: SPECIAL EVENTS**

Private Tours, Your Special Event, Your Wedding or Corporate Meeting or Celebration. We can accommodate any occasion. Please call for special rates and arrangements.

Last trip is near the end of September

**CHUTES COULONGE**



The wonderfully laid out walkway lets the visitor enjoy the spectacular Coulonge Rapids, near Fort Coulonge, where a slide was built to navigate the logs floating down from up-river to Ottawa to circumvent the rapids. Entrance is only \$5.00 for seniors and snacks are available.

The area is about an hour and a half from Kanata, and to get there, cross the Ottawa River to Gatineau and take Highway 148 west to Fort Coulonge. While there don't forget to view the

Marchand Bridge, the longest covered bridge in Quebec, and visit historic Portage-du-Fort along the way. A fur trade fort was here almost since the time of Champlain. Another route is to take Highway 17 west and cross into Quebec via the Cheneaux Dam at Portage-du-Fort.

The excellent website contains much information, including a video.

[www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca](http://www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca)

**RIDEAU CANAL LOCKS**



Rideau Canal - Narrows lock

All the locks on the historic Rideau Canal and waterway system are interesting but my favourite on a hot summers day is the Narrows Locks southwest of Smiths Falls. Why? Because there is generally a cooling breeze here on the hottest summers days; this is the high water point on the whole system and the breeze often makes for some interesting boat manoeuvres trying to enter the lock, particularly those skippered by novice houseboat renters. It is generally the busiest lock on the whole canal system. It is interesting to chat with the boaters and speculate on how much their boats cost and what it costs to fuel them up. <http://www.rideau-info.com/>

Get out and enjoy our summer, winter is coming, and the older we get the faster the summers go and winters come!

Garry Fancy

*It is very difficult to get up resentment towards persons whom one has never seen.*

- Cardinal Newman, *Apologia pro Vita Sua*, 1869

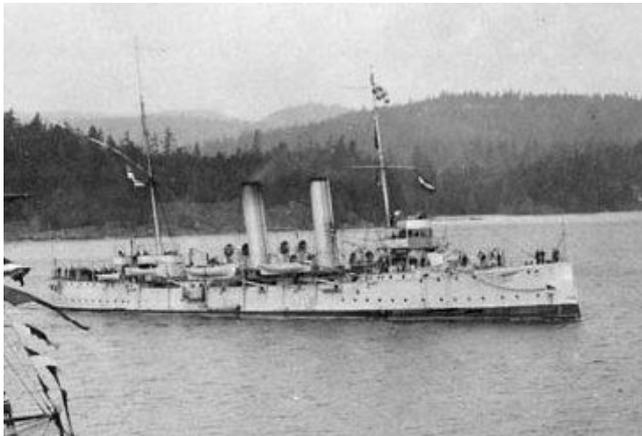
# Recapping the Coming Events:

**Wednesday, 19 September – Branch General Meeting, 7:30 PM**

**Friday, 21 September – Pub Night, Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:15**

**Saturday, 13 October – Fall Harvest Dinner & Dance, Reception at 5 PM, dinner at 6**

**Wednesday, 17 October – Branch General Meeting, 7:30 PM**



**H.M.C.S. Rainbow**

After service with the Royal Navy on the China Station (1895-98) and at Malta (1898-99), *Rainbow* had an operating cost that was deemed excessive and between 1900 and 1909, saw very little service. Eventually, she was not used at sea at all from 1907 to 1909. In early 1909, the Admiralty ordered her decommissioned and placed on the inactive list.

In 1910, two old cruisers, *Niobe* and *Rainbow* were purchased from the Admiralty. *Niobe* and *Rainbow* were the first two ships of the Royal Canadian Navy that were purchased from the Admiralty. *Rainbow* entered Canadian service on 4 May 1910. Her initial duties included training, ceremonial visits and fishery patrols. She served Canada's Pacific Coast based at Esquimalt

In 1914, *Rainbow* was called to Vancouver to assist with an international incident that was unfolding. The *Komagata Maru*, a ship filled with Sikh immigrants from India, challenged Canada's immigration law, designed to prevent immigration from South Asia. The ship's passengers were not permitted to disembark even though they were British subjects. *Rainbow* was sent to force the ship to return to India. Twenty of the passengers were killed upon returning to India, after they resisted an attempt to forcibly return them to Punjab.<sup>[4]</sup>

When the Great War broke out, *Rainbow* was already underway on a mission to find and engage ships of the Imperial German Navy in the Pacific Ocean; in particular *SMS Leipzig* and *SMS Nurnberg*. She never met either of these ships, although she missed *Leipzig* by only a day at San Francisco.<sup>[5]</sup> This was to be *Rainbow's* first and only taste of peril.

In 1916 and early 1917, *Rainbow* was used to transport \$140,000,000 in Russian gold bullion (valued in 1917 Canadian dollars), between Esquimalt and Vancouver.<sup>[6]</sup> This money was placed in trust with Canada by the Russian government for protection due to the impending Russian revolution.

The Royal Canadian Navy found that the cost of operating *Rainbow* was using up too much of the West Coast naval operations budget, and the crew of *Rainbow* were sorely needed on the Atlantic coast for the fight against the U-boats. *Rainbow* became a depot ship. She served in this capacity until 1920, when she was sold for scrap.

**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](mailto: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.**