



Royal Canadian Legion Br 530 Waterloo

Branch & Auxiliary News

Year-End 2012

Dec 20th 2012

In this issue.....

Page 1 (& 11)

President's Report

Page 2 (& 9)

1st Vice Report

Page 3

Sick & Visiting

Last Post

Bursary

Page 4

Poppy Report

Canteen report

Page 5

Membership

Honours & Awards

Page 6

Sgt-At-Arms

Page 7

Sports

Past President

2nd Vice President

Page 8

Ladies Auxiliary

Page 9

Early Bird winners

Page 10

Battle of Hong Kong

Page 11

Pres report cont'd

Page 12

Photo gallery

President's Report, Ron Hirschberger

Here We are coming into December with the Holiday Season ahead of us and two months of wondering and worrying about the Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day Parades and Services behind us. How did we ever get through it all?

First things first. After losing my best friend Nick van der Meulen in early October, shortly after he received the Diamond Jubilee Medal for his many years of dedication to our Legion, the K-W Poppy Fund and the 530 Havoc Air Cadets, I felt very low indeed as many of us at the Legion who knew Nick felt, I'm sure. But as time goes on and we through ourselves into the pride we feel when we host the "Why We Remember Week" for the 1,725 Children who took part in this years program which ran from Oct. 15th - 19th on the 3rd floor of our Branch.

A special Thank You to our PRO-Chairperson Cheryl Lace for contacting the schools and bus lines and coordinating those efforts to make the whole experience a success. A special Thank You also to our Sgt-at-Arms, Grant Hallas for putting together and presenting an excellent program to the children. To all those who helped from our Colour Party, our ladies who greeted the

children and poured soft drinks for them. To our Bag Piper Dan Graham and the Veterans who came and gave of their time to talk to the children, including the young Engineers who talked to and dressed some of the children in battle dress and showed them some of the items they use when they are out on duty.

It all made for a very busy week indeed. I would be remiss if I did not say that I was saddened last week to here of the passing of one of our Members, Comrade Ron Bowman. Ron has assisted our Why We Remember Week program for many years. He would come and set up his displays of old pictures and artifacts from WW2 and the Korean War and talked to the children endlessly about his collections. We will certainly miss him next year when that time rolls along again.

Onto our Poppy Campaign. Again this year we had a very poor showing of our Members out to help on our Poppy Campaign. Personally I am sick and tired of having to kiss members' asses to get them to come out and help by tagging Poppies. We all know that this should not be necessary, but it is a fact.

(CONT'D PAGE 11)

**PLEASE
remember to put
your cigarette
butts in the
ashtrays
supplied when
you're out on the
patio. Please use
the containers
for disposal, and
please make
your guests
aware of these
requirements.**

FRIDAY LUNCHES

**Most Fridays,
Chef Debbie
serves up
great noontime
meals, gener-
ally around
the \$7.00
mark.**

1st Vice President's Report, Jim Meyer

Well Comrades and friends,

We now end our sixtieth year of operation. Indeed, this Branch has been around longer than many of its Members, myself included. That's a good thing. Something we deserve to be proud of .

Being around this long does not come without problems. We have a great building, but it occasionally has a leaky roof, or a broken dishwasher, or peeling paint. All these things can be dealt with. It is not the quality of the building that makes a Legion Branch, it is the quality of its Members.

We have disagreements between some Members about the way things should be done. That is normal in any organisation, of any size, and will never change. If everyone agreed absolutely on every single issue, I think this would be one boring life, don't you?

I've had the honour of initiating many new Members over the years, and although I could probably recite the words from memory, I always read them. I don't want to miss the part about "asks of its members Service not for self, but for those of our Comrades who are in need or distress". I also like to loudly enunciate "active participation in the Poppy Campaign". Just as I feel we

should all reread the "Driver's Handbook" from MTO every few years, I think we should all reread our Oath of Initiation occasionally also.

When Judy and I were distributing Poppies to the residents at Terrace on the Square on the first day of this year's Campaign, one of the residents called us over to make sure he got a Poppy.

He told me he was "one of the lucky ones - twice lucky, in fact." I asked him to explain. He said he was lucky once, that he got to go overseas to fight for what was right, despite lying about his age to get in. He was lucky twice, because he lived to tell about it.

So yes, we can certainly enjoy a libation in the Clubroom, and enjoy our snooker, darts, or shuffleboard, etc. But we must always remember, we are here, as Legionnaires, for people such as that aged Veteran, who was proud to fight for what was right.

Just the other day, a group that we all know as "The Engineers" had their Christmas Party in our hall. Before the party, many of these personnel came into the Clubroom for a libation and good Comradeship.

(CONT PAGE 9)

Sick & Visiting, Shirley Gascho Bursaries, Jim Meyer

Comrade Diane Vaillancourt and I accompanied Santa on his Christmas rounds to deliver cards and gift certificates to our Veterans residing in Nursing and Retirement Homes. They certainly enjoyed a visit from Santa and I thank President Ron for volunteering to fill a busy Santa's boots.



Most of our Veterans are doing well and appreciate the visits. A few are battling breathing problems but are in good spirits despite these ailments.

Eileen Ayers had a bad fall and suffered broken arms and fingers..she will be in therapy for awhile.

Diane and I wish all our Comrades a Very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Shirley Gascho

Comrades,

There was a District "C" Bursary meeting scheduled for December 2nd. This meeting was cancelled due to a low number of applications.

Allow me to reiterate what I said in the last bulletin - There have been some (positive) changes to the Legion Bursary eligibility criteria.

Still Serving Military, as well as our current "new" generation of Veterans, are now eligible to apply for help to further their post-secondary education. This was an aspect of the application which I believe had been lacking, and I am happy this oversight has been dealt with.

Anyone interested in Bursary, please contact me directly.

Jim Meyer

Funerals, Ron Hirschberger

In the last three months we have had eight of our Members pass away. They were **Comrade Rev. Harold Steed, L.A. Member Irene Kieswetter, Comrade William Dolby, Comrade John Blair, Comrade James Essex, Comrade Nick van der Meulen, Comrade Joe Illig and Comrade Ron Bowman.**

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM".

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."



**NEW YEAR'S
in the
Clubroom**

**CDs for your
listening and
dancing 7PM-1**

**Potluck supper
9 PM**

**Admission:
A dish to share
or a \$5 donation
by Dec 26th**

**NO HEADGEAR
AT THIS EVENT
PLEASE**



The Poppy Campaign, Ron Hirschberger

Being most of my Report was typed into my President's Report, I only want to add a couple of important items. Being I have been sick myself these last few months with a low blood problem, I must say I was unable to fulfil my role as Poppy Chair. Therefore I wish to give credit where credit is due.

True to form the usual Volunteers came forward and answered the call. As I did last Year I did not want to name all the names of fear of missing some. That would be wrong.

I have mentioned to Dave and Karen Kirk that I would like to name them as Co-Poppy Chairs going forward. They certainly helped me through a tough spot this year and I Thank them both. Also a Big Thank You again to all those who helped.

You know who You are and I certainly appreciate Your efforts.

Canteen report, Ron Hirschberger

Having had a very busy Remembrance Day turnout after the Parade and during the afternoon and evening hours with the Jeff Allan Show then the One Man Band show after that, I understand that the entertainment went on longer than what we booked for.

I know I ordered 110 lbs of cold cuts from Pillers for the day and there wasn't a whole lot left at the end of the day. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for working so hard in keeping the pool table full of food for our hungry clients. What a day! I hope our Christmas Pub Night on Nov. 30th will have been as successful. Thanks to Debbie, Bev and Karen for putting that together for Us.

Also Thanks again to Debbie Bowman, Diane Vaillancourt and Steve Spaetzel for providing Friday Lunches.

For all of You Blues Lovers. Steve has arranged for Blues Year's Eve with the Doug Watson Band. Please come out and support Your Legion for this New Year's Eve Bash.

HELP

WANTED



New Members always welcome

Please extend a welcome to the **nineteen** new members initiated since the last newsletter.

We want all of our members to be active in Branch 530, and to

feel at home in their Branch.

Membership matters, and we are glad to have you all on board.



L.A. Catering

Don't forget, the Ladies Auxiliary is still in the catering business for hall rental events. Their full menu is on the Branch website. Please contact Diane Vaillancourt for information.

Membership, Judy Dennis

The initiation of new members to Waterloo Branch 530 has increased the last few months. This is a blessing as we have suffered the loss of many of our comrades this year and those deaths have taken a toll, not only on our hearts, but also on our membership numbers. It is important for all of us to try to recruit new members to keep our Branch viable and to ensure we have a strong voice during the voting process at conventions.

The number of members renewing their 2013 dues during the Early Bird Campaign is down from last year. This is not a great concern of mine and will not be until the powers to be give us a monetary incentive. A more important concern is having everyone renew prior to December 31st, as this is the number that Dominion Command uses to allocate our voting strength. **If you have not renewed for 2013, please make an effort to do so.**

During the initiation process, we all took an oath to promote the work of the organisation including active participation in the Poppy Campaign. From the number of members that volunteered during this important period, it is evident that we should offer a refresher course on what we promised to do when joining the Legion. Our priority, as members of the Legion, is to ensure that the men and women that fought for our country, and are still fighting, are taken care of. We accomplish this through monies from the Poppy Fund. If the cash flow decreases, so does the quality of life we offer these Veterans.

For a membership of 786 the number of people that volunteered is embarrassing and is reflective in the total dollar amount our Branch brought in this year. Those of you who have time to sit in the clubroom everyday being negative about your Executive, your Comrades and your Branch should have spent your time more positively and took a poppy box in hand. That would have helped our Veterans, and given you a sense of pride in being a Member of this great organisation. **To those few members that gave their "ALL" during this campaign, a Thank You from the Executive, your co-volunteers and most importantly, the Veterans that depend on your efforts.**

Honours & Awards, Judy Dennis

As President Ron reported, Jeff Allan was awarded the Media Award during our Remembrance Day celebrations at the Branch. He was both surprised and honoured to receive this award.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas, and a healthy, happy 2013.

Judy Dennis

Membership, Honours and Awards Chair

BLUES YEAR'S EVE

Monday Dec 31st

Doors open at 8 PM

Band from 9 -1

Cold Buffet 11:15 PM

Tickets at the Bar or
online, \$25 per person

(\$22 for Members)

Adults only, Please.



DOUGLAS WATSON
*Rhythm & Blues
Revue*

***The Colour Party is
ALWAYS looking
for members to join
their ranks.**

Sgt-At-Arms, Grant Hallas

Since we last met our colour party was heavily involved in the Remembrance Day season:

-We marched on the colours at the Remembrance Day dinner on the 10th which was a wonderful event

-The colour party marched at several cemeteries in the early morning of the 11th before the main parade

-The main parade on the 11th went very well. Good crowd. Beautiful weather. A great day for my first Remembrance Day parade as Sgt-at-Arms

Upcoming:

-No upcoming parades or events for the colour party until the new year

Starting in the new year I will be trying out a rotation of legion/ military uniforms in our front display case with whatever info I can find on each item. So keep an eye out for changes in our cases.

Grant Hallas



OPERATION INFO



Sunday January 20th 1:30pm

This an informational program that will be presented by Veterans Affairs Canada, the Government of Canada - OSISS Office Hamilton and the LMFRC (CF Forces), to assist all CF Reserve, CF Former members & Allied Veterans of the new changes coming in 2013. All CF Spouses, Widows and care-givers are to attend as this information will be of great interest to them.

It is "VERY IMPORTANT" that all CF Reserve & CF Veterans with their spouses attend.

The dress is RELAXED no uniform.

Together with The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 530 Waterloo & The Royal Canadian Regiment Association, Waterloo Wellington North Branch are bringing in "OPERATION INFO" to inform you of the Veterans affairs changes coming in 2013 and assistance programs for CF Families. Further info on the Bulletin Board.

Sports, Jim Meyer

Comrades,

On December 1st I had the honour of convening the Jim Ashton Memorial (Zone C-2) Shuffleboard Tournament at Br. 412. It turned out to be an "All- Kitchener" event, with ten teams from Br 412, and three from Br 50. Unfortunately, I was the only one there representing our Branch. The main reason I have been given for this fact is "I didn't know about it". All of the Zone Sports sign-up sheets were on the SPORTS BOARD the day after I received them, which was back in August. I also mentioned this fact at every General Meeting. If someone says they'd rather not play a particular sport, *that* I can accept. Unfortunate, but at least honest.

The sheets are still up for Zone Golf and Horseshoes, so anyone interested, please sign up. A Zone Sports day is always a fun day, win or lose.

We have had some Zone success recently, with two dart teams moving on to District play, and one crib team advancing. We wish our Comrades all the best in Owen Sound and Kincardine, respectively.

All of the inter-Branch and in-house snooker, darts, shuffleboard, cribbage, are well into the season. Thanks to Chuck Dolmage for sending me the Snooker stats every week for posting to the website, and to Buddy Johnston for managing the Snooker League.

In Sportsmanship,
Jim Meyer

Past President/Service Officer, Angus Horne

Randy Groundwater's visits have been reduced from every 3 months to every 4 months, if he is on schedule in the New Year he should be in this area in January or February 2013.

If at any time you or someone you know has a Veterans Benefit's related problem, please leave a message at the bar for me to call. Our clubroom phone number is 519-886-4790.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas a Healthy, Happy 2013.

Angus Horne

2nd Vice President/TOD, John Gross

From our house to yours, a wish for a very Merry Christmas, and all the best in 2013.

John Gross



**HALL (S) AVAILABLE
TO RENT (2nd & 3rd
Floor)...**

**For Weddings, Meet-
ings, Banquets, Pri-
vate Parties**

**Legion Bar and Cater-
ing Available for all
Events**

**WHEELCHAIR ACCES-
SIBLE**

**For Rental Informa-
tion call**

**Monday — Friday
11:00 am—5:00 pm**

**519-886-1440 or 519-
886-4790**

Ladies Auxiliary Report, Diane Vaillancourt

SICK & VISITING

If you are aware of a Ladies Auxiliary Member who is ill, please let us know so we can call and send a card. Please contact Irene Bricker at 519-576-2274.

DRAPING THE CHARTER

The Ladies Auxiliary has draped our Charter recently for the following member.

Please take a moment and remember her.

Irene Kieswetter

“Servant of God, well done, Thy glorious warfares past,

The battles fought, the victory won, And thou are crowned at last.”

ZEHR'S TAPES

Please drop your Zehr's tapes into the box in the Club Room near the bulletin board. Every tape counts as we continue to raise funds for our area hospitals.

Please watch the bulletin board for details on other Ladies Auxiliary fundraisers!

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2013

Diane Vaillancourt

President, Ladies Auxiliary



Did You Know

Branch 530 is hosting the Zone C-2 Spring Convention on March 16th, 2013?

This event runs all day on the Saturday, and of course, we anticipate some will stay for Comradeship in the evening.

We wish Deputy Zone Commander, our own Comrade Bob Berg, best of luck in his bid for the office of Zone C-2 Commander.

1st Vice Report, from page 2

I was standing at the bar at the time, with a Member who is ex-Air Force. He looked upon the sea of uniformed personnel, and said, "Jim, I think I've come home."

We must never forget, we are there for these Veterans also. An issue came up at a recent General Meeting regarding the free meals November 10th for WWII and Korea Vets. It was explained that the Ladies Auxiliary had paid for those meals, but simply could not afford free meals for all Veterans. I am happy to announce that I have discussed this issue with the District "C" Poppy Chairman, Comrade Robert Grey, and it was suggested that a special use form be submitted next year, for the Poppy Fund to give ALL Veterans a free ticket to our Annual Remembrance Banquet.

Comrades, the Branch has been around for sixty years, to serve our Veterans. We must keep in mind that the Canadian Forces did not disband after the Korea War. Branch 530 is a Legion. On a going-forward basis, we must remember that "A Veteran, is A Veteran, is A Veteran". (*Quoting Comrade Don Smith*) Just because someone's hair isn't yet grey, doesn't mean they weren't out there doing their duty for Queen and Country, just as so many did for King and Country.

On another note, Comrade Steve Spaetzel has arranged a New Years' Eve Party fit for a King or a Queen. The popular blues band, the Douglas Watson R & B revue, will be the headliner upstairs on December 31st. If you've never heard a real, Chicago-style Blues group, give it a try. I think you'd be pleasantly surprised. Tickets are just \$22 each for Legionnaires, \$25 for non-Members. This party includes a cold buffet at 11:15. Considering the quality of the entertainment, and the fact that libations will be available at regular Legion prices, I don't see a better deal, or a better time, anywhere in town.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome Comrade Kathie Stone to our Executive, as Branch Secretary. I'm certain she'll do an outstanding job.

Merry Christmas to you and yours, and all the best in 2013.

Jim Meyer

Early Bird News, Judy Dennis

Your Early Bird winners for 2012 were:

Danny Maine

Stan Leis

Cam Fraser

John Keenan

J.J. Hill

Congratulations to all of these Members. Their 2014 dues will be paid by the Branch.



**Royal Canadian Legion
Waterloo Branch 530
19 Regina St N
Waterloo ON N2J 2Z9**

**Phone: (519) 886-1440/886-4790
E-mail: rcl530@on.aibn.com
Facsimilie: (519) 886-5287
Website: <http://www.rclbr530.com>
Office: 9 a.m.—noon. M,T,T,F**

President :	Ron Hirschberger
Past President :	Angus Horne
1st Vice-President :	Jim Meyer
2nd Vice-President :	John Gross
Treasurer :	
Secretary :	Kathie Stone
Sgt-At-Arms	Grant Hallas
Chaplain:	Father Bernie Hayes
Chaplain	Father Peter Pelletier
Chaplain:	
Chief Steward :	Emilie McKinnon
Office Administrator	Peter Gerster

Please send all bulletin submissions to
530events@bell.net

Remember December 25th, 1941



The Canadian troops in Hong Kong were the first to see battle during World War II. The Japanese forces were attacking them with artillery and airplanes. In Canada's last stand, Sergeant-Major John Osborne won Canada's first Victoria Cross. His unit was being trapped in by the Japanese. While the Canadians were running through a ravine, the Japanese bombarded them with grenades. Osborne quickly picked them up and threw them back. When one grenade landed too far from reach, Osborne told his troops to clear out and threw himself on the grenade. He was killed instantly.



MEMORIAL WALL IN OTTAWA, HONOURING VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG

At the end of the war, many POW's were like skeletons. Many had diseases and were weak from years of torture. Many Canadian veterans from Hong Kong have pressed Canada to extract a formal apology from Japan and to compensate for their losses.

The Canadians were not well-equipped. After 17 days of fighting, the Canadians surrendered on the 25th of December 1941. They lost 290 soldiers, including their commander, and 500 were wounded. This, however, was just the beginning.

Survivors of Hong Kong were transferred to a Japanese Prison Camp for the remainder of World War II. These Prisoners of War were used for slave labour in coal and iron mines. 267 Canadians died in Japanese Prison Camps.

At the end of the war, many POW's

(PRESIDENT'S REPORT, FROM PG 1)

The last two years I have written and asked at our meetings, and put up posters for sign-ups, and very few answer the call. Yes there are members who are unable to help that is understandable. But there are a hell of a lot more that won't help and that's a shame. To those of you who do come out and help in anyway, we Thank You from the bottom of our hearts. You all know who you are and we appreciate your help. From what I have heard from Cathy McIntyre, the 2012 Poppy Campaign was down slightly from other years, but on the whole, was successful.

Starting on the 2nd. of November, we had our Colour Party carrying Colours at the Portraits of Honour Presentation at the Court at Laurelwood. On the 3rd. of November, we had Our Colours at the Zone C-2 Memorial Service at Memory Gardens. On the 4th of November we had Our Colours at the Veterans' Green Ceremony at 9:00 a.m., at Our Annual Church Service at St. Michael's Catholic Church on University Ave. at 11:00 a.m., and again at 3:00 p.m. at the Elmira Legion's Ceremony. A Wreath from Branch 530 was laid at all three Ceremonies.

Moving on to Our Remembrance Day Dinner held on the 2nd & 3rd. floor of our Branch, I believe we can again this year hold our heads high with pride as how this all came together. With Special Thanks to Jim Meyer, Judy Dennis, our Padre Father Bernie Hayes. Jeff Allan our MC, our Sergeant at Arms, Grant Hallas, our Colour Party Al Goebel, Kim Peters and Laura Arnold, all of the Engineers who again did such a fantastic job on decorating our hall, to our Guest Speaker Captain Bill Arnot to our Piper Dan Graham Sr. and to our Bugler Gerard Heldman, to our wonderful Ladies Auxiliary who again put on a great meal for us, and to the 530 Havoc Cadets who served that great Meal, "Thank You All".

Our November 11th Parade and Ceremony too, was successful. Although our Parade Marshall Steve Mann came down with a real raspy throat, he carried on like the pro he is. Thanks to the RCSCC Warspite Band for coming to our aid to supply the Marching Band element to our Parade, it went rather well. Thanks also to the Waterloo Concert Band for playing the two Anthems, and the Hymns. This year we had a Soloist, Brian Duyn sing Our National and Royal Anthems accompanied by the voices of the hundreds in the crowd. It was nice to hear. Our Padre Father Bernie Hayes and our 1st. Vice President were able to read the names of one-hundred thirty Wreath intentions and presenters with a minute and twenty seconds to spare before 11:00. Thanks also to Cathy and Kevin McIntyre and their helpers who kept the Wreath Presenters line moving with the big crowd to contend with, To all those who took part in the Ceremony, again our Bugler Gerard Heldman, our Piper Dan Graham, our Flag attendant Blain Sloat, our Cadets who stood Vigil all night and all those who took part in the Parade, Thank You.

After the Ceremony back at the Branch we had a wonderful day with all of the visitors and the on-site live broadcast of the Jeff Allan Remembrance Show on the air. Jim Meyer and I were delighted to present to Jeff Allan his Special Media Award plaque for outstanding work on behalf of the Legions and Veterans in our area.

So now I look forward to December 3rd and 4th and accompanying Diane Vaillancourt and Shirley Gascho as we visit our Veterans living in Seniors Homes. Guess which one of us will be dressed as Santa Claus.

On that note I will sign off and "Wish You All A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Ron Hirschberger
President

PHOTO GALLERY



A student at Why We Remember Week



Big crowd at the Cenotaph November 11th



Comrade Jeff Allan receives Legion Media Award



A great group on the 2012 Poppy Campaign flyer



Popular entertainer **Mike Thorpe** will be joining us for

CHRISTMAS IN THE CLUBROOM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22ND

4 - 8 PM