



THE DUGOUT

July / August 2008

June 26th 2008

In this issue

- *Presidents Trip Report.* 1
- *Poppy Campaign changes.* 2
- *Service Officer Visit.* 3
- *Nominate someone for a medal or award.* 3
- *Volunteer for the Track and Field event* 5
- *A busy summer for the colour party.* 6
- *Veteran medals being forgotten?* 7
- *Still time to sign up your little ones for Christmas.* 7
- *WEBNEWS* 8

Presidents Report, Dave Davidson

Summer is upon us and many members will be going to their cottages, trailers and or camping.

General meetings are finished until September, but your executive will continue to look after the everyday business of the Branch.

I was and still am in Ottawa for the Dominion Convention at the time of our last general meeting, so 1st Vice President Michael Fenton got the chance to chair the meeting. Reports I've heard said it went well . . .

The remainder of this report is coming to you from the Dominion Convention in Ottawa which ended today (June 25) and I will be heading home first thing in the morning. It was a very eventful convention.

There were 337 resolutions, some had lively debates while other were quickly passed.

I'll give brief Breakdown of my activities during the Convention.

Left home Friday took seven hours to get to Ottawa

Saturday:

I attended the Aboriginal Veterans Memorial Service and met with Claude Petite (Also a Korea Vet-

eran). I also phoned an old friend who I communicate with on the Internet, but hadn't seen in a number of years. I left a message on his answering machine that I was coming over for dinner Saturday night (trying to save the Branch money). I later found out that had he known I was going to be in Ottawa, I would have been invited to his wedding which took place that day.

Sunday:

The parade to the National War Memorial on Sunday morning for the memorial service was excellent and without my trusty scooter I would not have been able to participate. Opening ceremonies were in afternoon and were equally enjoyable.

Meetings started at 8:30.am each day, which took a little adjustment of my built-in clock!

Monday:

Was hectic, a lot of times boarding on chaos, and at times very heated and reminded me of some of the meetings at my own Branch since I became President. However I found by talking to other Presidents it is not uncommon in a Command, District,

Continued on Page 2

PLEASE
remember to put
your gum and
cigarette ends in
the containers
supplied when
your out on the
patio. Recently
we found gum
on the floor and
it's a hard thing
to wash off the
concrete, and
again we found
cigarette ends
lying around the
patio.

Please use the
containers for
disposal, and
please make
your guests
aware of these
requirement's.

Presidents Report: Continued From Page 1

Zone or Branch. There are the few who do lots of good work for the Branch and there are those who seem to make their soul priority to cause trouble.

Tuesday:

There were greeting from other Veterans Organizations, A presentation by a Legion member by the name of Donna (didn't catch the last name) a school teacher from Cape Breton Nova Scotia. Who went on the pilgrimage to France. Her presentation supplemented with a photo presentation and singing that only a Coal Miners daughter could do, ended with the singing of "There Will be Blue Birds over the White Cliffs of Dover". I have heard many presentations in my life but none was as touching as the one Donna gave. If they would have had a sale on Kleenex, they would have made a killing, there were over 1300 delegates in the convention room, and although I could not see everyone, the ones sitting around me all had tears in their eyes. Later General Rick Heller paid a visit

to the convention. General Heller in my opinion is the best soldiers General since Rocky Rockingham who commanded the Canadians in Korea. His chrism is unquestionable. Tuesday night I took my friend and his new wife out for dinner. I returned to the Hotel and met Stan Howie Past Zone Commander and President of Polish Legion, who invited me for a drink in his room. Jim Ashton President of Branch 530 was also there and together we fixed all the problems in the Waterloo/Kitchener Legions

Wednesday:

Almost slept in and found, Scotch kills the pain better for me than Tylenol 3. I spoke on the Memorial Cup and the donations from the auction of the Rangers Jerseys on eBay. I reported that they had given the KW Poppy Fund \$49,000 which was greeted with a loud applause. It's a little tiring for an old guy, but I enjoyed representing the Branch at the 42nd Bi-Annual Convention



The Poppy Campaign, Mike Fenton

This year during the Poppy drive, all Route sheets are going to be retyped to reflect 2007 rather than the 2005 set we had to use last year. Charlie Powell has all the boxes ready to go. At our next General Meeting I will be posting sign up sheets for volunteers, help and advice. Cathy Laflame indicated that mail outs in the past have not done well but because of our troops I think things have changed, we will therefore do a

small run on a corporate basis'

Because of the reflected costs for our volunteers I am trying to streamline and make more efficient our efforts. We will have a meeting mid October at which time all

details will be finalized before "the big push". In advance we will get our mailing ready for an in sync arrival for day one of the drive.

Continues on next page

The Poppy Campaign Continued, Mike Fenton

The Branch is looking for more help in addition to the help from last year. Cadets will be of assistance but we will need drivers to take them to their tagging spot and bring them back to the Branch.

As per last year we will count all our funds. Jerry Prince did an excellent job last year, and I will take his motorcycle away for the duration of the count. Perhaps I'll let him ride in the parking lot?

A Word From The Second Vice-President. God Ross

Hello Comrades, I hope all are in good health?

Here we are the starting of another summer. Environment Canada is calling for very warm temperatures this summer so we'll keep the cooler stocked up for your cooling enjoyment.

We have a cruise night August 16, 2008 (Saturday) (Rain date August 17, 2008 Sunday) Some help will be required to make this a successful event..

For those members I might not see this summer, be safe and enjoy the summer.

Service Officer, Peter Gardiner

Mr Randolph Groundwater/Provincial Service Officer will be visiting the Branch on Thursday July 31st at 11am. Anyone wishing information, advice or assistance, regarding:

1. War Disability Pension Applications, Reviews, and Appeals.
2. Treatment for Entitled Veterans.

3. Applications for Benevolent Funds.
4. War Veterans Allowances, including Widows.

is requested to contact me or the Office Manager (Debbie) to arrange an interview with Randolph Groundwater.

Honours and Awards, Jean Davidson

The honours and awards ceremony will take place on September 18th 2008 at 7pm. The invitations will go out at the end of august.

If you don't receive one and think you should have a service pin, please contact me or the office (Debbie) and let us know.

We will be giving out certificates to members who have contributed much in the past.

If you think of anyone who deserves recognition for outstanding work at the legion, please let me know, or call Debbie at the office.



The Proceeds of the Poppy Drive assist everyone in the community.

The Poppy House has a sock of walkers, canes, crutches, wheel chairs etc.

For more information Call the Branch Office at 519-745-5101



Honours and Awards

**Air
Conditioning
Now Working
Nominally**

House and Building, Chris Pickering

For all the members who do not have computers or are unable to attend the general meetings here is an update on the things that have been done within the branch this year.

The bar has been altered to accommodate a lift up section of the counter to allow for easy access to the kitchen.

Two new 25amp circuits have been installed by the shuffleboards for the crock pots. Four new commercial grade dimmer controls were installed to replace the old ones that were overheating and the back bar lighting was fixed.

The air conditioning is now back to normal. This problem was not the many thermostats that had been re-

placed but was due to a short circuit in the wiring going through the roof.

The chairs are going to be cleaned and any that need to be repaired will get done.

The office secretary requested that the office layout be changed to create more space and this has been done.

The front entrances are now relatively " Butt free " for which I thank you all for being considerate and respectful of the branch.

Please enjoy your summer, but don't spend it sitting around thinking of things for me to do, I have a long overdue HONEYDO list of my own.

Membership, Marguerite McNeelands

In July we will have an initiation for people who have been approved at the General Meeting June 22nd.

We will also be checking the names in the 50/50 box to keep them up to date. Thanks go out to Jean David-

son, Carley McKie, and especially Debbie Springall for their hard work over the last two months getting the Membership Database up to date.

I would like to wish everyone as safe and happy summer.

**Membership
Database Now
much improved.**

Kitchen News, Marguerite McNeelands

During the past two months food was provided for Barbeques, Entertainment, Crib Tournaments, The Police Association, and various other events. Money brought in from these events was \$1,221.00, at a cost of

\$448.00 resulting in a profit of \$773.00.

Thanks to all my great helpers and I look forward to feeding you all in the summer.

"\$773 profit"

Seniors, Jean Davidson

The seniors next meeting is September 14th ,2008 at 2pm. There will be a guest speaker and supper will be in

the form of a barbeque. If anyone wishes to bring a salad or dessert, it will be greatly appreciated.

Ways & Means, Louis Kuntz

The meat draws, Zehrs tapes, shufleboard, pool tables and penny jar brought in \$ 1,286.97. Aluminum

cans and wheel of fortune will be reported next month.

Patio, Louis Kuntz

The water wheel is up and running, it has been repaired, thanks to Vince McQuabbie and Chris Mayhew who balanced and readjusted it.

Many thanks to both these gentlemen for helping me out.

Vince also cleaned the patio floor, he

washed the concrete and found some gum and cigarette ends, these are very difficult to get rid of, and members and guests should make sure that they use the proper containers for the disposal of these items when they use the patio.



Sports, Raymonde Hachey

The John Renwick annual Golf Tournament will be held in Tavistock on August the 23rd . Please sign up early , \$40.00 per person, you have to make your own arrangements for carts, 8 am start.

“The baseball game” will be held on Sept the 13th in Petersburg, this is co-ed and played against the branch from Hamilton.

Track and Field. The Provincial Track & Field meet will be held on July 18th and 19th. We welcome any volunteers for these days. Please let me know as soon as you can.

Have a nice summer and thanks to all the people that are helping me, it makes my job easier.



Track & Field

Sick & Visiting, Norma Ash

I have visited with Mr Henry McKenzie WW11 veteran at Freeport Hospital again this week, had a nice chat with him on June 18th, will continue to keep the members posted..

Gerry Capling, is now at Freeport and has enjoyed visits from his friends and comrades, he is in room 221 (extension # 3026) and at present undergoing therapy

Bill Weido is at home recovering we wish him well.

Doreen Jacobs has had day surgery and she is now at home recovering, had a nice visit last week with her and she is now back to doing her volunteer work, what a trooper..

Just a reminder to all the seniors to stay cool indoors during the humid weather, drink plenty of fluids.

Stay safe have a great summer.

PLEASE
Stay cool and
drink lots of
fluids over the
summer
months

The Sergeant At Arms Needs You, Ed Gorniak

Upcoming Parades and Dress Events:

HMCS Kitchener Anniversary Celebration

June 28, 2008 1:00pm Branch 50
(All colour Party that wishes to attend)

Dominion Institute Attending

July 8, 2008 TBA Veterans Green
(All colour Party that wishes to attend)

Provincial Track & Field Opening Ceremonies

July 19, 2008 8:45am Centennial Stadium
(Canadian & Branch Flag ONLY)

Cambridge Highland Games & Competition

July 19, 2008 TBA
All branches Kitchener invited to join as one branch)

Battle of Britain Parade

Sept 2008 TBA

Tri-Branch Warriors Day Parade

Sept 13, 2008 TBA
(All colour Party that wishes to attend)

Korean Veterans Association

Sept 14, 2008 TBA Veterans Green
(All colour Party that wishes to attend)

Honours & Awards Ceremony

Sept 18, 2008 7:00pm Branch 50

Remembrance Day – 90 Years

Nov 11, 2008 TBA
(All colour Party that wishes to attend)

CADETS:

June 28, 2008 Army 1596 HMCS Kitchener
(16 cadets attending)

August 16, 2008 Redline Car Club –
Proceeds to go the
Afghanistan Veterans Survivors,
(8 cadets attending)



***The Colour
Party practices
Thursday
Evenings
7:00pm weekly.
We are ALWAYS
looking for new
members to join
our ranks.**

Letter To The Editor

I wanted to wear my fathers jacket on Remembrance Day and post signs everywhere on the jacket to inform everyone that this is my fathers jacket and I am representing him and his fight for freedom.

But I later found out that it wouldn't be proper to wear my fathers jacket with the medals he has pinned on it.

So I am a little confused about the protocol and I certainly would not want to hurt any of the Vets by insulting them in anyway by wearing my fathers Jacket which clearly display his medals.

I now think I must carry my fathers jacket but I don't know if that would have the same impact that it was meant to do.

I would like to hear the honest opinions from the Vets as to how they feel about a daughter or son wearing their fathers jacket with the medals pinned to it **ONLY ON REMEMBRANCE DAY**, and pinning on notes in big letters that I **WEAR MY FATHERS JACKET**.

If the vets are against the idea of the sons and daughters representing them, then I will carry my fathers

jacket out of respect for all vets.

My problem lies in the fact that what happens when all of our World War 2 vets are gone and their jackets and medals are just collecting dust in the closet, like my fathers is right now.

It doesn't make sense that we cannot be proud to represent them in a special way by bringing those jackets with medals pinned to them out of the closet and wear it proudly on Remembrance Day.

Daughters and sons could also join the legions to keep them going as well.

These are just my thoughts and once again, I respect the wishes of all vets and I would like to hear their opinions regarding **WEARING MY FATHERS JACKET ON REMEMBRANCE DAY INSTEAD OF CARRYING IT**.

Thanks so much!
Proud Daughter of a Vet

Editors Note: A very interesting point and sentiment. Perhaps an appropriate arm-band could suffice.



The Elves are Waiting

If you have not already registered your little darlings for the Christmas party time is running out. Please register as soon as possible on the sign up sheet on the bar.

All children up to and including the age of 12 (infants too) are eligible.

The cost is the same as last year -

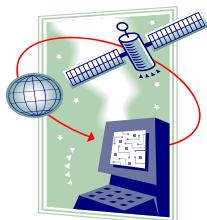
\$5.00 per child to a maximum of \$15.00 (if you have 4 or more children to register, the price is \$15.00).

Don't let your little one's be disappointed.



WATERLOO REGION RECORD

Keep an eye on The Record's weekly entertainment guide, and the Branch website for schedule updates.



Editors Note, Alf Ash

Well summer is here again and people are looking forward to taking that well earned vacation to relax and enjoy the warm weather, some of us will be staying around this area and taking part in the branch events,

please remember to support the branch as much as possible during this holiday season, events that will be taking place at the branch will still be placed in the records club scene.

Don't Forget To Visit Us On-Line, Trevor German

Remember, Branch 50 has its own website at <http://www.rclbr50.ca>

There you will find interesting news items from around the globe as well as up-to-date branch news and schedule updates.

The site also features a members section where you can sign in and read important branch documents such as the by-laws, meeting minutes, previous editions of the Dugout, etc. Please visit often.

Since we have a large proportion of

members who do not have access to the web we are currently producing a weekly printed newspaper version of the WEBNEWS. This will be posted when available on the bulletin board.

We are looking for feedback on this document and may, if enough members desire it, begin selling them at the bar at a nominal cost to cover production.

Please express your interest in purchasing the paper to either Alf Ash, the bar steward on duty, or myself.

Royal Canadian Legion
Fred Gies (Branch 50) Ontario
524 Belmont Avenue, West
Kitchener, ON
N2M 5E3

Phone: 519-745-5101
Fax: 519-745-0211
E-mail: office@rclbr50.ca
Online: <http://www.rclbr50.ca>
Office: 11 a.m.—3 p.m. Mon—Fri

Branch 50 Executive

President : **David Davidson**
Past President : **Laurie Pollock**
1st Vice-President : **Michael Fenton**
2nd Vice-President : **Gordon Ross**
Treasurer : **Jim Fraser**
Secretary : **Belva Christner**
Sergeant at Arms : **Ed Gorniak**
Padre : **Father Terry McGuire**
Chief Steward : **Gerry Devost**
Office Manager : **Debbie Springall**

Printing, Collation and Mail Service Provided By

