



THE DUGOUT

January / February 2009

December 30th, 2008

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President's Report, Dave Davidson

We are moving forward into another year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Happy New Year.

I hope Santa was good to everyone!

Once again our Kid's Christmas Party was a real big success thanks to the great connections and organizational skills of our treasurer Jim Fraser. How Jim gets the energy to do everything he does is beyond belief.

Looking back on 2008, we have had a great year, there is some unfinished business that has to be resolved, but we are making great progress and I'm sure the road blocks which were set in place will be removed. Shortly.

I can't help but feel we are doing something right. Membership is on the rise while other Branches struggle to increase theirs. I'm told people are transferring from other Branches to ours because we always have something going on, and they want to be part of the action.

This is reflected in sales at the BAR (the only source of income a branch has) The sale of about four drinks a

year purchased by a member will produce more revenue for the branch than that which we get left over from the dues each member pays. November was a great month and Sales were at an all time high. Just a word on the Remembrance day Parade. It was televised on Rogers. We also had great exposure from CTV and old friends from the West sent me emails saying they had seen me on CTV National television (said I wasn't any better looking than I was a hundred years ago) so we are getting the word out.

I would personally like to thank the executive for their hard work during the past year, Sometimes it feels like wetting your pants while wearing dark trousers It gives you a feeling of warmth but nobody notices, .and a very special mention to our Webmaster Trevor German who works tirelessly on our website which doesn't have to take a back seat to any . . .

For those who haven't been in the Branch other than to pay their dues, Please come around and say HELLO to your Comrades.

Yours in comradeship

PLEASE
remember to put
your gum and
cigarette ends in
the containers
supplied when
you're 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
requirements.

Afghanistan - 100 Plus : A soldier's perspective.

Lt.-Col. Hope (he is now a colonel) was asked if there was anything else he wanted to say.

"Yes," he said, "there is.

"Remember that these soldiers are doing what they joined to do. Have no pity for them because we don't pity ourselves. Our suffering needs to be seen in the context of our achievements, which were many."

Soldiers are in Kandahar doing what they signed up to do; almost every day, they see that their presence produces results, sometimes small, sometimes big; if losses are viewed in that context, then they may be understood.

If we'd like anything at all, it is just the recognition that the costs incurred were the costs of succeeding in battle.

This doesn't mean that officers and troops don't grieve and weep over each soldier; they do, of course, and it is harder and more wrenching when the deaths come in multiples.

The Canadian army is an intimately connected group, rather like a smallish town where if you don't know every single person, usually you know someone else who does.

Those bonds are only hardened and strengthened in war, so every death is widely felt and personal.

But none of that means soldiers are debilitated by losses, least of all shattered, as at least one TV reporter has glumly said..

The supposed benchmark of 100 soldiers' deaths - plus the diplomat Glyn Berry - is a creation of the media.

But the milestone, as the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk, told The Globe and Mail "is foreign to our culture. We grieve each death," he said. "We are such a family. And we have a mission to do, that Canada has given us, as they have given our forefathers. We've got to suck it up and get on with it."

While back home, Canadians may have been growing complacent as almost three months passed without a casualty, Gen. Natynczyk and his ilk would think about the lull and say, "Touch wood, think about something else. We know the luck runs out, and the guys have been busy, doing an incredible job."

Throughout these purportedly quiet months, the wounded have been returning home - nine troops in one vehicle, coming back "banged up," Gen. Natynczyk said, but still with fierce spirit, begging to be allowed to get on the next rotation.

One of those he met recently in hospital in Ottawa is Corporal Billy

Kerr, a member of the team mentoring the Afghan National Police, who about six weeks ago, as his squad was entering a compound, triggered a bomb. He leaned into the explosion, probably saving others who were with him, and lost both legs above the knee and his left forearm.

The army flew his girlfriend to the big American military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where he was recovering in the critical-care unit.

"When he came out of the sedation," the CDS said, "he looked at her, and realized what kind of a life he's going to have, and said, 'You can walk away.' " She didn't, of course, and more recently, he proposed to her in

hospital, and she said yes.

All of them - the dead, the wounded, the widows, children, parents - deserve sympathy, respect for service and sacrifice that is beyond most of the rest of us, admiration, but pity?

"Don't pity us," Gen. Natynczyk said.

"We're talking about tough young Canadians."

"Soldiers have pride."

A Word From The First Vice-President, Mike Fenton

I attended the Army Cadets Xmas Party and it was quite a success with Promotions and internal changes, and of course Haggis with lots of food.

We had a very healthy fun night for

the cadets and our girls basketball team(they just won the Gold Medal in a recent tournament - congrats)

Thanks to all who helped with the food and games.

A Word From The Second Vice-President. Gord Ross

Hope to find all in good health. Was Santa good to all, no)chunks of coal for anyone (he he). I'm hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The branch had a very good November, I'll give figures at the General Body Meeting in January.

Also remember our election will be upon us very shortly.

Please think about a position on the executive you would like to run for.

Until the next Dugout, don't be a stranger at the Branch, please come in and enjoy yourself.



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

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

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

Local lawn bowlers head to worlds in Australia.

Branch # 50 (Fred Gies) member Vivian Berkeley is heading to Australia in April, with Carrie Speers and Norm Green who are also visually impaired, they earned the chance to compete internationally after winning medals at this years Blind Associa-

tion of Canada competition, held in Regina.

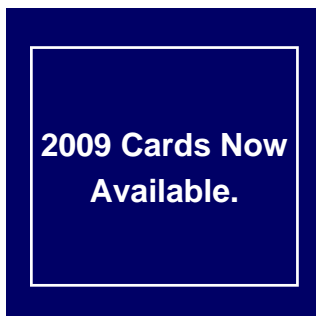
We wish her luck in this competition, and hope she has a nice visit to Australia.



The Poppy Campaign, Mike Fenton

I still have cheques to come in for the Poppy Fund, and I thank everyone who helped with the big PUSH.

With thanks to all, our current contribution has reached \$37,091.20.



Membership, Marguerite McNeelands

It has been a pleasure being your Membership Chairperson at the Fred Gies Branch 50.

art & Carolyn Harvey in winning the free membership for 2010.

With the support of my committee Carlie McKie & Jean Davidson it has made my job a breeze.

I would like to wish you all a great year for 2009.

Congratulations to the Early Bird Winners Jack Farthing, James Stew-

Our next meeting will be January 25th, 2009, and we will once again be initiating new members.



Kitchen News, Marguerite McNeelands

We had a busy month for November.

Cost of making the sandwiches was \$112.00 / profit / \$457.00.

I would like to thank all those members who brought in their stew for the November 11th to support our branch.

Money spent on food for BBQ's, Entertainment & Sports Events \$643.00.

I started making sandwiches that are available at the bar for \$3.00.

Money brought in \$2,011.00 / Profit \$1,368.00.

New Face Behind the Bar

Please extend a welcome to our new part time bar tender Bev Waters. Bev is the daughter of Mary and

Trevor German, lives in St Jacobs, and will be serving on occasional evening and weekend shifts.

Ways & Means, Louis Kuntz

Wheel of Fortune	\$60.00
Pop cans	\$23.00
50/50	\$204.00
Zehrs tapes	\$143.29
Meat draws	\$901.00
Shuffleboard & Pool Tables	\$125.00
Jukebox	\$179.00
Coffee Fund For Troops	\$137.25
Patio Flags	\$45.00
Totals	\$1,817.83



Seniors, Jean Davidson

From the comments we have had, everyone enjoyed our Christmas Party.

Thanks to Marguerite and her helpers, we had a wonderful dinner.

It was voted on to purchase one of

the curio cabinets the Legion is buying for the trophies & memorabilia.

Our next meeting is January 11,2009 at 2pm.

Sick & Visiting, Norma Ash

George Moser- Released from hospital (all the best for 2009)

Dave Wright fractured knee (all the best for 2009)

Entertainment, Norma Ash

It will be a busy winter with entertainment at the branch for your enjoyment, please look at the dugout calendar or tabletop for information on upcoming events.

As usual posters will be available on the bar for your viewing to jog your memory.

Have a happy and prosperous New Year.

From the Office, Debbie Springall

Notice: As of the New Year there will ONLY be cash sales of merchandise, Cheques will no longer be accepted.

purchase.

Note: Special Events Tickets are Cash sales only.

Reminder: Merchandise returns will only be accepted 7 days after date of

I wish each and everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.



On behalf of all Members of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Fred Gies (Branch # 50) would like to thank the following for helping our Legion in presenting the 90th

Anniversary of the end of WW1 Parade, on Remembrance Day 11th November, 2008.

- The Grade 12 students and staff at Monsignor Doyle Catholic Secondary School in Cambridge. Who made the crosses carried in the parade.
- Highland Camera for developing the cross pictures.
- NC Pestill for Printing the Posters.
- Jim Davidson for printing the draft posters.
- Rogers TV (Rick Rathwell and the staff).
- Jeff Allan host of News Talk 570 Radio.
- The staff of News Talk 570 Radio.
- CTV News.
- The Waterloo Regional Record.
- City Cab.
- Sheppard Public School Choir and Staff.
- Army and Air Force Cadets and the Officers.
- The Waterloo Regional Police Band.
- The Colour Parties and all the other Parade Participants.
- The Families of Canadian Soldiers serving in Afghanistan.
- Father Terry McGuire Padre for the Fred Gies Branch #50.
- IODE (Princes Richard and Michel Chapter).
- Edward Gorniak CD (Parade Marshall).
- James Fraser. (Bugler)
- Cory Brayshaw. (Piper)
- Paul Rose, Royal Canadian Legion, Deputy Zone Commander.
- Kerry Kirby, President of the St. Mary's Heritage Area.
- Avis Car and Truck Rental, for renting Branch #50 the truck.
- Charlie Powell. (Poppy Coordinator)
- Marguerite McNeelands. (Kitchen Coordinator)
- The Branch # 50 members for their generous contributions of Rum and Stew.
- Mike Fenton who spent many hours organizing the Poppy Campaign.
- All the people who helped during this Poppy Campaign.
- Trevor and Mary German of Branch # 50 Kitchener (www.rclbr50.ca)

(Apologies to anyone who was missed)

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



Chili Cook-Off-Winners

After a great deal of testing by the judges, they finally decided on the winners.

The Chili Cook-Off Winners are:

- 1st Prize Murray Baker.
- 2nd Prize Pete Gardiner.
- 3rd Prize Chris Pickering.
- 4th Prize Anne-Marie Snider.

Children's Christmas Party

The Children's Xmas Party was held on Saturday 13th,2008.

There was face painting for all the kids, and Santa Claus arrived at Branch #50 in style, we played music and all the kids and adults had a good time.

The kids also enjoyed the hotdogs

and hamburgers that Klause and Gerry cooked for them, and best of all they enjoyed the gifts that Santa brought for them.

Pictures that were taken of some of the children on Santa's knee, are available for the parents at the branch.



WATERLOO REGION RECORD

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

Editors Note, Alf Ash

I hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

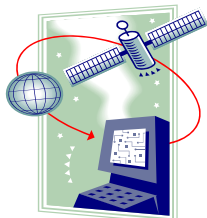
And I wish you all the best for 2009.

I should remind you all that membership cards are available for 2009, and I hope you renew them so as your Dugout will be delivered on time to you in 2009 (every 2 months). Memberships that are not renewed in time for the next Dugout/ Legion Magazine, may not be delivered to you, so please renew now, cards are available at the bar.

I have been busy taking pictures at

the various parades and events, and I hope that you have enjoyed these on the Website. I will continue to update the calendar events on the site, so if you notice any that are missed or are wrong, please notify me as soon as possible for them to be corrected.

Again I wish you all the very best in 2009, and a big thank you to Trevor German for doing a fantastic job as the Webmaster for the Legion Branch #50 site.



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

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

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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**

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≤ BRANCH 50 LEGION EVENTS IN JANUARY 2009 ≥

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3
						12pm - Crib Tournament 4pm - Grocery Day
Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Karaoke Only Tonight. at 7pm 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 7pm - Executive Meeting	8pm - Ladies Darts	11am - Pool -Zone C 4pm - Grocery Day 6pm - 10pm - Randy Kuhn Music
Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17
2pm - Seniors Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Dinner-Spaghetti. 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts	12:30pm - 10 Pin Fun-Frederick Lanes. 4pm - Grocery Day 5pm - 9pm - Michael Kelly- Music
Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Karaoke Tonight Only at 7pm/ No Dinner 7pm - Karaoke	7pm - K-W Crib 7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 5pm - 8:30pm - Pub Night-Melody Train	8pm - Ladies Darts	10am - 5 Pin Bowling-Zone 4pm - Grocery Day 8pm - Party-Open to Members
Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31
2pm - General Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Dinner 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 6:30pm - Retired Police Supper.	8pm - Ladies Darts	4pm - Grocery Day

≤ BRANCH 50 LEGION EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 2009 ≥

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm – Men’s Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 7pm - Karaoke- No Dinner Tonight.	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 5pm - 8:30pm - Night Pub Night-Melody Train	8pm - Ladies Darts	12pm - Crib Tournament 4pm - Grocery Day
Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14
2pm - Senior Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm – Men’s Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Dinner-Spaghetti. 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 7pm - Executive Meeting	8pm - Ladies Darts	4pm - Grocery Day 8pm - Wedding Party (Ginny and Mike)
Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21
3pm - 7pm - Lindsay Morgan-Valentine's Dance	6:30pm - Pool 8pm – Men’s Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 7pm - Karaoke- No Dinner Tonight.	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts	4pm - Grocery Day
Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28
2pm - General Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm – Men’s Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 7pm - Karaoke-No Dinner Tonight.	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 6:30pm - Retired Police Supper	8pm - Ladies Darts	10:30am - Pool Tournament 4pm - Grocery Day