



THE DUGOUT

March / April 2009

February 27th, 2008

In this issue

- *Presidents Report, Page 1*
- *VIVIAN BERKLEY FUND RAISER, Page 2*
- *Sports Contacts, Page 3*
- *Donations Wanted, Page 4*
- *A Fitting Tribute, Page 4*
- *Letter from the Cadets, Page 6*

President's Report, Dave Davidson

This winter has been particularly difficult for my wife Betty and me. Betty lost two of her sisters to cancer in less than five weeks. Her sister Jean fought with cancer for several years. She had breast cancer and beat that one, Then the cancer spread to her brain and eventually took her away from us. She was just a tiny little woman, but she put up a strong fight right to the very end. Her sister Doris had lung cancer and had been fighting it for sometime. She also fought the hard fight but in the end it also took her away from us. Betty & I wish to thank those comrades and friends who sent their condolences in this very hard and sad time for both of us.

Our most knowledgeable and excellent webmaster Trevor German, has finished the digital picture frame of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in Afghanistan, and it is now displayed in the branch. The picture frame contains the photos of the 108 Canadians who have died in Afghanistan since Canada joined the war on terrorism. It is a tribute to our fallen comrades. It recently was the subject of a news article on the local TV news, and sometimes was also part of the National News It has become the envy of other Branches

and many of them have requested the file so that they too may show respect for the Canadians who have fallen because of this difficult war.

Norma Ash and Marguerite McNeelands went on a well deserved holiday. They are both very hard working members of the executive. I'm sure they both enjoyed the sunshine and warm weather of the south, but are looking forward to returning to the cold and snow of Kitchener. I would just also like to say that the whole executive are hard workers, and they work together for you the members of Fred Gies Branch 50 of the Royal Canadian Legion. They all do their best and for this you cannot fault them.

For those who we don't see on a regular basis, you are not using your membership to the fullest. As you can see by the calendar there are many events going on at the branch. We would love to see you join us for some of them.

Yours in Comradeship

PLEASE
HELP
SUPPORT
VIVIAN

We don't often get a chance to show solidarity and support to one of our deserving members and now is the time to demonstrate the "heart" of Fred Gies Branch 50, Royal Canadian Legion.

VIVIAN BERKLEY FUND RAISER, Jim Fraser

VIVIAN BERKLEY FUND RAISER
SUNDAY, MARCH 15th , 2009
1:00PM to closing

It isn't often we have a member ask for assistance, particularly when they are representing Canada in a most prestigious sports challenge in World competition.

However, Vivian Berkley, a Branch 50 Comrade has won the right to represent Canada in the **World Championships for Blind Lawn Bowling** this April, 2009 in **Australia**.

As prestigious the right, the hitch is the cost to get to Australia to represent our Country and Vivian is requesting the support of her fellow comrades in Branch 50.

Therefore we are setting up a **Vivian Berkley Day on March 15th** and we are asking **ALL** of our members to show their support in one or more of

the following ways !!!

Buy a ticket available at the Bar - \$5.00 which will you allow you to attend our special day or simply buy the ticket as a direct donation in the event you are unable to attend. If you can't get in to purchase a ticket, we will accept mail contributions.

Provide a gift which can be raffled or put in the Silent Auction on March 15th. Gifts may be left at the office or bar.

Please buy a ticket, provide a gift and **attend the special day** on March 15th , where we will be having draws, a Silent Auction, entertainment by "Randy and Ron" from 4:00PM to late. Food will also be available at a nominal cost.

We don't often get a chance to show solidarity and support to one of our deserving members and now is the time to demonstrate the "heart" of Fred Gies Branch 50, Royal Canadian Legion.

A Word From The Second Vice-President. Gord Ross

Hello comrades hope to find all in good health.

Winter will soon be behind us for another year.

There sure were some cold days this winter not to mention all the snow. Spring and Summer will be here before we know it.

Don't forget our elections will be upon us very soon. Nominate someone or be nominated for a position on the executive.

I will not be running for any position the upcoming term.

A Word From The First Vice-President, Mike Fenton

The Poppy Fund, which is still climbing now sits at \$37,184.20. Thanks to all who donated and helped with the campaign.

Kitchen Plans: Our building was started in 1975 and finished in 1976, we received the original site plans from the City and these will be updated to reflect our proposal.

Blane, the Engineer, is away on a cruise, and our CAD programming should be done when he gets back.

We will provide as much info as we can after the City has put in their two cents,.

Do not forget that we need your input as we move through this endeavour.



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

Sports, Raymonde Hachey

The following contact list may be of interest to newer members.

Monday Night, inter-city, men's dart league : John McDougall

Monday Night open pool : Judy Littlefield

Tuesday Afternoon, fun darts : Audrey Weido

Tuesday Afternoon, fun shuffleboard : Charlie Newman

Wed Night, K-W mixed shuffleboard league : Jim Meyer

Thursday Afternoon, Euchre : Jean Davidson

Friday Night, K-W women's dart league : Donna Schwartz

1st Saturday of the month, open cribbage : Jim Fraser

Monthly, pool tournament : Judy Littlefield

All other sports inquiries contact Raymonde Hachey – Sports Officer

Four Sharks Headed For Port Elgin

On Saturday, the 10th of January, Branch 50 (Ontario) of the Royal Canadian Legion, hosted the annual Zone Pool Tournament. Sixteen teams from around the region vied for one of six opportunities to compete at the district level which this year will be held in Port Elgin on the 9th of May.

Branch 50 entered six teams in this event. Of those two teams succeeded in advancing to district. Nick Vinski and his brother Joe Vinski

won nine out of a possible ten games, and Bev Waters and her father Trevor German took seven.

We are also very happy to announce that Nick and Joe Vinski succeeded in winning this tournament and gained the honour for our branch to host this tournament again next year.

Good work and good luck Comrades



DONATIONS WANTED

There is a donation box at Branch #50, to collect any gifts that you wish to send to Parkwood Hospital in London.

Articles like, shaving cream, tooth brushes, and any other items that

elderly people can use would be greatly appreciated.

Members are reminded to donate the items no later than March 7th, so as Robert Jantzi can pick these up and deliver them to the hospital on March



Veteran Services, Peter Gardiner

Randy Groundwater coming April 2/2009 at 11am.

will now be able to get free bus passes on Grand River Transit.

And all veterans older than 65 years Please see me for details.

Membership, Marguerite McNeelands

Our membership is increasing every month, we are happy to have new members join us.

50/50 box so that we can ensure that all eligible members are indeed included in the draw.

In March, we will be checking the

Kitchen News, Marguerite McNeelands

Over the last period we spent \$826.00 and brought in \$1,893.00, with a net profit of \$1,065.00

The Salad Bar will be \$3.00 & Donations of desserts would be appreciated.

We will be back to BBQ's Tuesdays, March 3rd, 24th, 31st, April 7th, 21st, 28th, 2009. As always, you can bring your own meat, or buy meat at the bar.

March 10th Spaghetti Night \$6.00.

March 17th St. Patrick's Day Stew \$6.00.

April 14th Spaghetti Night & 6.00.



A Fitting Tribute

An electronic picture frame has been installed on the pillar close to the bar which displays the pictures and details of each of our brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan.

The picture frame made headlines on CTV news. A copy of the news article is available on our website.

Branch 50 is providing the picture set free of charge for other Legions across the nation.



Ways & Means, Louis Kuntz

Wheel of Fortune	\$0.00
Pop cans	\$0.00
50/50	\$204.00
Zehrs tapes	\$20.28
Meat draws	\$539.96 (\$1442 less \$891.04)
Shuffleboard & Pool Tables	\$65.00
Jukebox	\$125.00
Coffee Fund For Troops	\$137.25
Patio Flags	\$45.00
Super Bowl Pool :	\$50.00
Share The Wealth :	\$50.00
Totals	\$905.24



Seniors, Jean Davidson

At the February meeting the seniors voted to give \$400.00 to Anselma House.

Thanks to Pat Ryan, Carolyn Harvey, Laurie Pollock and Cyril Wright for conducting the horse races for us. We realized \$139.00 from the races.

Our next meeting is March 8th/2009. Pot luck supper is to be supplied by

members with the last names beginning M to Z.

We are once again having the Easter baskets to raffle off, and any donations will be greatly appreciated. This is our only way to make money. They will be drawn at the April meeting, tickets will be on sale after the March 8/2009 meeting.



Entertainment, Norma Ash

The ABBA show and dinner is sold out, this show will be on Saturday April 18th/2009. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for this event.

It will be a busy March /April with en-

tertainment 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 at the branch for your viewing to jog your memory.



A special congratulations goes to Ginny Polai and Mike Mosser whom cupid joined in matrimony on Valentines Day.

Sick & Visiting, Norma Ash

Our best wishes go out to Dave Wright who is in Sunnyside. Hope to

see you with us again soon Dave.

Letter to the Members from the Cadets



Ladies and Gentlemen, and Comrades of Branch 50 Fred Gies, Royal Canadian Legion, first let me wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year, on behalf of the 1596 Waterloo Regional Cadet Organization Police School Royal Canadian Army Cadets .

Now let me introduce to you to the first every 1596 Waterloo Regional Cadet Organization Police School Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corpse Newsletter.

We are very honoured and proud to have you as our sponsor.

Our year so far we have been very busy. So far this year we have increased our enrolment to at least 60 cadets. Looking good and we have an enrolment blitz coming up in January.

We conducted a one day exercise on Saturday September 20th, 2008, where we learned about team work, constructing an improvised shelter, learned to us a GPS and learned survival techniques.

We had our first Tag Day fund raiser on the weekend of September 26-27, 2008. All went well and we had a good turnout by the cadets.

Many of our Cadets were busy at the end of Oktoberfest by helping to dismantle the fest hall at the Kitchener Arena. That was a lot of work but we made a name for ourselves, looks like we will be invited back to help out again next year. This activity worked out very well with some of our cadets as they were able earn some volunteer hours towards their high school graduation. Way to go cadets.

At the end of October we conducted a full weekend exercise at Peacekeeper Park near London, Ontario. This exercise covered several areas of our training schedule. These included:

- 1) Follow Camp Routine and Erect a Group Tent
- 2) Apply "Leave No Trace" Camping
- 3) Participate as a Member of a Group during Weekend Bivouac Exercise
- 4) Maintain Section Equipment
- 5) Tie a Bowline, Fisherman's Knot, Clove Hitch and a Square Lashing:
- 6) Calculate Magnetic Declination and Orient a Map Using a Compass, and
- 7) Participate in a Navigational Exercise – Day and Night.

Now don't get me wrong but camping in the Army Cadets is not all work and no play-----

How about a 0530 hrs wake-up call: Or a 12 foot vertical wall climb -----
Now let's add a "Confidence Course into that-----

Despite all of that, the cadets thoroughly enjoyed themselves; they were asking if they will be coming back next year even before this exercise was



Editors Note:

This letter was originally intended to be included in the January Edition of the Dugout but was omitted due to space limitations.

Apologies to Officer Gerry Jacobs

over. By the way, I forgot to mention that there was ice on the tents on Saturday and Sunday morning. A tad bit on the chilly side.

NOVEMBER.

We started off with assisting the Fred Gies Royal Canadian Legion with their annual Poppy Drive. It was an honour to participate in this very important activity. Thank you to the legion for the cadet appreciation dinner you put on for us.

Next we participated in the Elmira Remembrance Day Service on November 9, 2008. With a mixture of rain, snow and some hail we stood tall and proud for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to serve.

And again on November 11, 2008 at the Kitchener Remembrance Day Service: We started with the all-night Air Cadet and Army Cadet vigil at the Kitchener Cenotaph.

The next morning we marched from the Kitchener Armoury to the Cenotaph downtown, that warmed us up quite a bit. Thanks to the Air Cadet Band for keeping us all in step.

A special mention to 2nd Lieutenant Bolduc for carrying the Poppy Flag:

DECEMBER

Finally the 1596 WRCOPS RCACC "wrapped" up 2008 with our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Waterloo Regional Police Association Recreational Centre and Banquet Hall.

We were honoured to have with us the following dignitaries from our sponsors, parent committee and former cadets:

From Waterloo Regional Police: Inspector Gould and Mrs. Gould, Superintendent Chalk and Mrs. Chalk

From Branch 50 Fred Gies, Royal Canadian Legion: 1st Vice President Mike Fenton Sergeant at Arms Ed Gornick, Secretary Belva Cristner and her son and former cadet Greg.

Former 1596 WRCOPS RCACC cadets: Officer Cadet Chandler and Cadet Instructor T. Bailey.

Volunteer Committee member Jen Ryan received a special recognition from the Army Cadet League of Canada for 8 years of Volunteer service. Congratulations Jen.

A special thank you to MWO D. Trochimchuk for piping in the head table.

The food was fantastic as usual and a big hardy THANK YOU to the staff of the Banquet Hall for their usual hard work.

It's been a great year so far. We look forward to continuing this great year in January 2009 with more exercises and activities for the cadets

On behalf of the 1596 WRCOPS RCACC I would like to thank each and every one of you.

See you in 2009.

Officer Cadet Gerry Jacobs

Training Officer

1596 Waterloo Regional Cadet Organization Police School

Royal Canadian Army Cadets

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 was interviewed on the CTV News regarding the Picture Frame that tells the history of the 'Troops that were Lost in Afghanistan', this frame was donated by President Dave Davidson and the data were supplied by Trevor German (Webmaster).

I would like to thank both these gentleman for their time and gifts to the Branch #50, they are appreciated very much. I hope the other Legions/Service Clubs get the updates from our Website and are able to keep this memory going.

We would like to thank Marie for the display that she put on for the kids Xmas Party, it was appreciated by all the kids and parents, and we are glad she took the time and effort to display these wonderful Xmas items.

I hope that you have enjoyed the Website. I will continue to update the calendar events on the site, so if you notice any that are missed or are

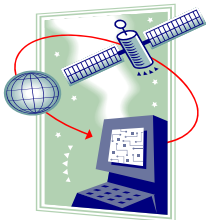
wrong, please notify me as soon as possible for them to be corrected.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Executive Committee, who work very hard and they deserve the gratitude of all for their hard work, they are Marguerite McNeedlands, Jean Davidson, Chris Pickering, Pete Gardiner, Louis Kuntz, Raymonde Hachey, Deanna McCormick, Norma Ash.

And also I would like to thank Debbie Springall for handling the typing of the minutes for the General Meeting and the Executive meeting, which are posted for the members to view.

Again a big thank you to Trevor German for doing a fantastic job as the Webmaster for the Legion Branch #50 site.

Remember to Support our Troops in Afghanistan.



Publications, Trevor German

A special thank you to Jim Meyer for helping proof read the Dugout.

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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 MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - BBQ 7pm - Karaoke	7pm - K-W Crib 7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts	12pm - Crib Tournament 4pm - Grocery Day 6:30pm - Wedding(Gord-Laurie)
Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14
2pm - Seniors Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Dinner-Spaghetti Night 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 7pm - Executive Meeting	8pm - Ladies Darts	4pm - Grocery Day 8pm - Party-Open
Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21
4pm - 8pm Benefit-Melody Train/Randy Kuhn	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm St. Patrick's Day Stew Dinner 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts	10am - Pool Challenge 4pm - Grocery Day
Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
2pm - General Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - BBQ. 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 6:30pm - Retired Police Supper	8pm - Ladies Darts	4pm - Grocery Day 8pm - 12pm - Birthday Party-Open
Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31				
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - BBQ 7pm - Karaoke				

BRANCH 50 LEGION EVENTS IN APRIL 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3	Apr 4
			7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	11am - Veterans Interview-Randy Groundwater 1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts	12pm - Crib Tournament 4pm - Grocery Day 5:30pm - 9:30pm - Randy and Friend
Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9	Apr 10	Apr 11
2pm - Seniors Meeting	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - BBQ 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre 7pm - Executive Meeting	8pm - Ladies Darts	4pm - Grocery Day
Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - Dinner-Spaghetti Night. 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League	1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts	3pm - 6pm - Bowling 4pm - Grocery Day 7pm - 11pm ABBA Tribute Dinner/Show Sold Out
Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25
	6:30pm - Pool 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - BBQ 7pm - Karaoke	7:15pm - K-W Shuffleboard League-Last Night	1:30pm - Euchre	8pm - Ladies Darts-Last Night	4pm - Grocery Day 8pm - Private Party-Closed to Members
Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30		
2pm - General Meeting	6:30pm - Pool-Last Night-Awards Night 8pm - Men's Darts	1pm - Seniors Darts 1pm - Shuffleboard 5:30pm - BBQ 7pm - Karaoke		1:30pm - Euchre 6:30pm - Retired Police Supper		