



WEBNEWS

This Week's News From www.rclbr50.ca



Ontario : Branch 50 - FRED GIES, Kitchener. 🍁

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Week Ending December 1, 2007

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Branch 50 meets Branch 163 in 10 Pin Bowling Challenge



Twenty members representing Branch 163, Hamilton, ON, traveled to Cambridge on Saturday, November 25th, to meet 9 members of Branch 50, Kitchener, in a 10 Pin Bowling Challenge.

The results of the day are as follows:

High Single Jerry Prince, Branch 50, with a score of 163

High Triple Dave Mahler, Branch 163, with a score of 434

Low Score Betty Gray, Branch 50, with a score of 65

Honourable Mention goes out to the following participants from Branch 163:

John Bielak, Age 88, and Gaston Briand, Age 83, for a great effort!

Frances Chrichton, 1st time ever bowler.

Thanks to everyone who participated at the ibowl lanes, and to everyone back at Branch 50 for assisting with the food preparation.

This report would not be complete without recognizing the fine efforts of Peter Schaeffer, who organized the event on behalf of Branch 163.

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Gloria McKibbin, PRO
Section: Sports

Track & Field Report



Track & Field

Track & Field Report to the General Meeting

The next event will be The Provincial Winter Track & Field Meet scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2008, which is hosted annually by District "D" at York University.

Athletes are allowed to enter up to 3 events and their entries are to be sent to the nearest Legion Branch to where they live, regardless of which T & F Club or school they belong to.

The deadline for athletes to sign-up for the Winter meet is January 10, 2008. There are no entry fees for this event. Branch T & F chairmen will notified by January 31, 2008, the names of athletes who will be representing their respective branches.

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Gloria McKibbin, Track & Field Chairman
Section: Sports

Public Relations Report



It has been very busy around the branch since our October 28th

General Meeting. The Remembrance & Poppy Campaign, which is the highlight of The Royal Canadian Legion, was well supported this year. Comrade Mike Fenton will provide all the details in his report.

November 11th was a great success at Branch 50. Thank you to everyone who donated stew, bottles of rum, or assisted with set-up, serving and clean-up. A special thank you to Comrade Gerry Capling for arranging the Parade and Cenotaph Service again this year, as well as the parade and church service on November 4th at the Salvation Army Citadel. Special thanks to Chief Steward Gerry Devost for assisting me with organizing the day.

I accompanied Comrade President Dave as he delivered two Remembrance Services. Nov. 9th at Doon Village Retirement Home, and Nov. 10th at Trinity Village Care Centre. Cadet Leader Gerry Jacobs and his son Cadet John Jacobs, also took part in the Trinity Service.

Comrade Trevor German and I have been working very hard on our branch web-site. Trevor has done us proud as he continues to fine tune the end result. Please check it out at www.rclbr50.ca. Info is posted at the bar and on the bulletin board. If you have an item of interest you would like posted on our site, please contact Trevor or me through the web-site contact email addresses.

The Nov/Dec 2007 edition of the dugout has been mailed, emailed and posted to our new branch web-site. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to read it by now. If not, there are copies available in the branch today. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out by stuffing envelopes, labeling and/or mailing the dugout.

On November 3rd, we hosted Branch #533 Byron-Springbank, London, ON. We treated them to a bar-b-q lunch before they traveled to the New Hamburg and Stratford branches to finish out their day.

On November 24th, we hosted Branch #163 from Hamilton, for a 10 Pin Bowling Challenge in Cambridge, and bar-b-q at our branch following the fun. I have arranged two more inter branch visits with #163 for 2008. Details will follow in the next issue of the dugout.

This morning, Comrade Peter Gardiner and I traveled to Parkwood Hospital in London, ON, where we were joined by Comrade Brent Jantzi, Zone TOD, and 2nd Vice-President for New Hamburg Branch #532. We had the pleasure of presenting the veterans with four boxes of gifts from the members of Branch 50. Special thanks to each and every one of you who made this possible with your generous donations. Comrade Peter will expand on the Parkwood Hospital visit in his report.

The messages for the bar sign have been updated but unfortunately, due to a mechanical difficulty, I was not able to transmit them to the sign. A new cable will be installed in the very near future to correct the transmission problem.

The Zone C2 PRO Seminar scheduled for Monday, November 19th was cancelled, and has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 9th, 2007. I will be in attendance to represent Branch 50.

Respectfully Submitted – Yours In Comradeship,

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Gloria McKibbin, PRO
Section: Executive

Chili Cook-off was a great success!



First prize of \$90. for the best chili entry, went to Murray Baker with quite a "hot" entry.

Second prize of \$65 was awarded to Trevor & Mary German.

Third prize of \$45 was awarded to Ken Meinzinger.

Thanks to everyone for your great support of this fun event.

Pictured is (L-R) Jim Fraser and Trevor German. Trevor's entry 'Red River Rocket Fuel' won 2nd prize.

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Jim Fraser
Section: Entertainment

Cadets Present Branch With Thank You Pictures



At the general body meeting on

Sunday the 25th of November, The Air Force Cadets and Army Cadets presented the branch with framed pictures of both cadet groups in appreciation of the contributions made by our branch to their respective organizations.

The pictures were presented by Ed Gorniak, Branch 50 Cadet Liaison to President Dave Davidson. Pictured (L-R) are Belva Christner & Ed Gorniak, #80 K-W Spitfire Squadron, Air Cadets; President Dave Davidson; 2nd Lt. Claude Bolduc & Cadet Leader Gerry Jacobs, 1596 Army Cadet Corps.

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Gloria McKibbin, PRO
Section: Executive

Two Teams from Branch 50 Advance in Zone C2 Tournament



On Saturday, November 24, 2007, seven teams representing Branch 50 participated in the Zone C2 Shuffleboard Tournament, hosted by Branch #412. 28 teams were represented in total.

The Zone Winners were Art Sysbers & Al Kuensler from Branch 412.

Advances from Branch 412, were.

Art Sysbers & Al Kuensler
Merv Sysbers & Al Kuensler
Howie Wagner & Bill Bord
Carol Heideman & Roger Stephenson
Kelly Hoffman & Ted Sowa
Dave Fooks & Gerry Baker

Advances from Branch 50, were.

Charlie Neuman & Tim Davidson and Wayne Morgan & Verne Schweig.

Congratulations comrades and good luck at the next level.

Monday, November 26, 2007
Gloria McKibbin, PRO & Ginny Polai
Section: Sports

Fall Lineup Is Here



The snow is upon us and our winter togs are here just in time.

This year we have two styles of jackets to choose from along with two nice fleecy coverings to keep you toasty warm during the winter months.

Come check them out on our new clothes rack and ask the canteen staff about availability and pricing.

Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Wardrobe Department
Section: Canteen

British Service Veterans Can Apply For Special Pin



A reminder,

Did you serve in the armed forces in

Britain? If you did, there is a veteran's pin you would be entitled to receive. If you know of someone who this would apply to, please pass this information along to them.

Tuesday, November 27, 2007
 Vi Graham, Veteran
 Section: Veterans

Obituary - Gaston Briand, Branch #163, Hamilton



It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Comrade Gaston Briand, Age 83, on Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Gaston is a member of Branch #163, Hamilton, and was one of the participants in last Saturday's 10 Pin Bowling Challenge against Branch 50. Our condolences go out to the Briand family and comrades of Branch #163. Information provided courtesy of Peter Schaefer, Branch #163.

Thursday, November 29, 2007
 Gloria McKibbin, PRO
 Section: Births Deaths and Marriages

Canadian veterans of atomic tests will be recognized: MacKay

OTTAWA - Canadian soldiers exposed in the 1950s to fallout from U.S. atomic weapons tests in the Nevada desert will soon be recognized, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Thursday.

It's not clear yet what form the recognition will take and whether there will be compensation.

"I hope to have an announcement very

soon that will provide what I think is the necessary recognition for the extraordinary service of those atomic veterans, those members of the Canadian Forces who did exceptional duty for our country," MacKay said following a meeting of the House of Commons defence committee.

When pressed on whether Ottawa is willing to pay compensation as Washington has done for its atomic veterans, MacKay would say only that he'll have an announcement shortly.

"I'm sensitive to the fact that they have waited a long time. So out of respect for them I want to tell them first."

Soldiers who took part in the 1957 tests had threatened to sue the federal government after they heard former defence minister Gordon O'Connor had been planning to offer a \$24,000 lump sum payment for each individual.

The U.S. government settled with its veterans in the early 1980s, paying each of them \$75,000.

One veteran, Jim Huntley, 68, was skeptical of MacKay's statement, saying the federal government has repeatedly failed to hit self-imposed deadlines to settle their claim.

"I'm not sure I believe anything I hear right now," he said in an interview from his home in Calgary.

In two meetings earlier this year, Huntley said O'Connor assured him that a compensation package was prepared and that every Canadian who took part in the tests would be given the same amount of money. The veterans, who were close to the blast sites, opposed that.

After MacKay took over for O'Connor last summer's cabinet shuffle, Huntley said he learned that no compensation money had been approved and asked the new minister to explain what was going on.

The veterans have since accused MacKay's office of dragging its feet - something the minister denied.

"I've taken a very hands-on approach and this is one I've personally committed to with those who are affected and I want to see it through very quickly," he said.

MacKay said he met this week with

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson to discuss the case and insisted the Tory government has done more for veterans than previous regimes.

He pointed to the \$96-million Agent Orange compensation package for veterans exposed to the defoliant spraying at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., in the 1960s.

Veterans in that case have complained that their \$20,000 one-time payments were inadequate.

In January of this year, a Defence Department report said the protection afforded the soldiers, who took part in the tests, was questionable.

The Canadian army sent soldiers to the Nevada desert in 1957 to join in two months' of American weapons tests.

Six atomic bombs were set off and many of the soldiers faced them without any protection - an experiment to see what effect it would have on their ability to fight.

They survived the blasts, although their trenches collapsed.

In one case, helicopters picked them up and flew through a mushroom cloud and over ground zero.

Thursday, November 29, 2007
 Murray Brewster, THE CANADIAN PRESS
 Section: Veterans