



WEBNEWS

This Weeks News From www.rclbr50.ca



Ontario : Branch 50 - FRED GIES, Kitchener. 

Volume - 1 Edition 52

Week Ending January 5, 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

- Quebec gunner killed in Afghanistan
- Canadians in Afghanistan battling against international terrorism: top general
- In Memorial: Alexander Douglas Dye, 1930 - 2007
- Locals Bound for the war zone
- Fallen soldier remembered as New Year's Eve day rolls in with little fanfare
- January/February 2008 Issue of The Dugout
- The Dion Family Message
- Sick and Visiting Update
- Soldier follows great-grandad's footsteps
- Kitchener-Waterloo MP deserves credit
- And The Winner of the NASCAR Jacket is.....
- Our Condolences go out to Margaret (Maggie) Fleming
- Get Well Wishes to Dorothy Hipkins,
- Track & Field Report to the Executive January 3, 2008
- Ways & Means Report
- Upcoming Changes to the Tuesday Night Bar-B-Q

Quebec gunner killed in Afghanistan



MA'SUM GHAR, AFGHANISTAN

A Canadian soldier is dead and four others are recovering from injuries suffered when their light armoured vehicle struck a roadside bomb early Sunday in southern Afghanistan.

The soldier has been identified as Jonathan Dion, 27, a gunner with the 5th Regiment d'Artilerie legere du Canada from Val-d'Or, Que.

The explosion happened shortly after 9 a.m. about 20 km west of Kandahar city, during a routine patrol. Five people were evacuated by helicopter to hospital at Kandahar Airfield where Dion later succumbed to his injuries.

Military officials say the other soldiers suffered non-life threatening injuries.

Dion's death marks the 74th time a Canadian soldier has died in combat in Afghanistan.

Most of those fatalities were the result of improvised explosive devices.

The four injured soldiers were evacuated by helicopter to the hospital at Kandahar Airfield and are in good condition.

CTV's Murray Oliver told CTV Newsnet from Kandahar that one soldier has already been released from hospital and the others are

expected to make a full recovery.

They were able to call their families themselves, Oliver said.

The blast occurred in Zhari District, about 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The soldiers were travelling in a TLAV - an older model of personnel carrier that has had its armour upgraded -- as part of a convoy heading back to Kandahar City.

"Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the soldier who was killed and those who were injured," Wing Commander Antony McCord, Regional Command South spokesperson, said in an ISAF news release.

Canada has 2,500 soldiers operating in southern Afghanistan as part of the NATO mission.

Dion, from Val-d'Or, Que., is the 74th Canadian soldier to die since 2002. A Canadian diplomat has also been killed.

"These roadside bombs have been the way that most Canadian soldiers have been killed or injured. I can tell you that the soldiers just hate them," Oliver said.

"It's very frustrating, you can imagine, for a soldier who wants to be fighting and can accept being injured in combat, to be injured while sitting in a vehicle."

Sunday, December 30, 2007
The Canadian Press
Section: Afghanistan

Canadians in Afghanistan battling against international terrorism: top general



OTTAWA - The conflict in Afghanistan is about more than simply rehabilitating a small, war-battered country in southwest Asia, says Canada's top general.

Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of the defence staff, says Afghanistan is a beachhead in a larger fight against the kind of international terrorism personified by al-Qaida.

The Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan fighting NATO soldiers, including Canadians, are supported by outside groups who provide money, manpower and expertise, he said.

Hillier said the Taliban, when it ruled Afghanistan, supported international terror by offering a haven for militants far from international scrutiny.

"The Taliban provided that sort of fertile garden in which al-Qaida could do a whole bunch of things that it would not have otherwise been able to do or would have had more difficulty doing," he said in a recent interview.

Without that help, the group might not have been able to pull off the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington.

"The Taliban gave al-Qaida the training camps and the ability to plan and recruit and finance and get people ready," he said.

"You want to remove that petri dish so you can't grow that kind of violence and the capabilities to project that violence around the world."

He said NATO is in Afghanistan "helping remove that protected base where terrorist groups like al-Qaida and others could hide and reside and prepare and project violence."

He also said a calm and peaceful Afghanistan could have a stabilizing effect on the entire region.

With three mutually suspicious and nuclear-armed powers in the neighbourhood - Indian, Pakistan and China - that stability would be welcome.

"It's got effects far outside of Afghanistan."

Canadian troops have been in Afghanistan since 2002 and 74 have been killed fighting the Taliban and its allies, including a soldier killed Sunday by a roadside bomb.

Hillier said the Afghan insurgents are getting help from other radical groups, including those fighting in Iraq. Roadside booby traps in Afghanistan, also known as improvised explosive devices or IEDs, are becoming more sophisticated and deadly, in part because of outside help.

"We do see some of the tactics, perhaps, that do come out of Iraq," he said. "It's hard to say exactly . . . but we are pretty confident that some of the tactics in use of IEDs . . . has come out of Iraq, without question."

Support goes beyond expertise in explosives.

"Do we see foreign fighters in Afghanistan? We do.

"We see Chechens . . . and we see Arabs and Egyptians, Arabs from a variety of nations. We see Algerians and Moroccans, not in big numbers, but we do see those folks there."

There are outside paymasters, too.

"We do see that the Taliban are being sustained by a variety of things and one of them is money and that money network probably extends pretty far and wide."

Hillier said stabilizing the country is a long job, but it's an important one.

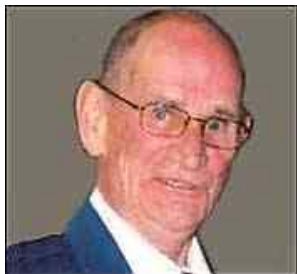
Canada has agreed to stay there until 2009. The government has suggested it would like to stay longer, but has pledged to put the matter to a Commons vote.

The opposition parties want to see Canada out, although they vary on when. The Liberals are content with the 2009 deadline, while the NDP want an immediate pullout.

Some argue that Canada's departure would hurt NATO. Others suggest it will simply force other members of the alliance to take a bigger role in the fighting.

Sunday, December 30, 2007
John Ward, THE CANADIAN PRESS
Section: Afghanistan

In Memorial: Alexander Douglas Dye, 1930 - 2007



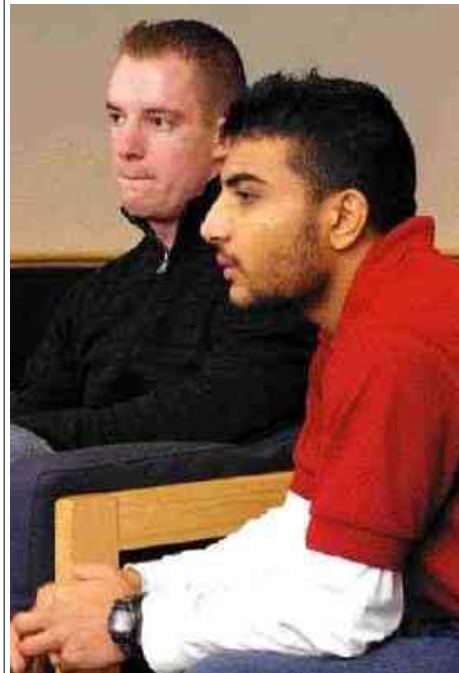
Passed away, peacefully at his home on December 28, 2007 at the age of 77 years. Beloved husband of the late Hilda Dye (1997). Loving father of Andrew Dye and his companion Shuquin Lee and Douglas Dye and his wife Suzanne. Proud grandfather of Eirinn and Claire. Survived by four brothers and five sisters; many nieces and nephews in Canada, Scotland and Australia, and his faithful dog Rusty. Alex served in the Royal Armored Corps and was a skilled craftsman in carpentry. He was a long time member of the Elmira Golf Club and also the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 50, Kitchener. Alex will be long remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and kind nature. Honouring Alex's personal request cremation has taken place. A celebration of Alex's life will take place at a later date and will be announced in a further edition of the K-W Record. Condolences for the family and donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation can be arranged through the Erb and Good Family Funeral Home, 171 King Street South, Waterloo - 519-745-8445 or

The Royal Canadian Legion, Fred Gies Branch 50 (Ontario)

www.erbgood.com In living memory of Alex, a tree will be planted through the Trees for Learning Program by the funeral home

Monday, December 31, 2007
Section: Births Deaths and Marriages

Locals Bound for the war zone



As Canadians mourn the death of another soldier in Afghanistan, two local men getting ready for deployment explain why they are eager to serve

WATERLOO REGION

When 15 members of Waterloo Region's Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada board a plane bound for Afghanistan later this year, it will be a historic moment in more than one sense.

It will be a first for the reservists. Some have served a tour overseas, but not in Afghanistan. It will also be the first time since the Second World War that so many soldiers from the unit will be overseas on the same mission.

"I've always wanted to do this," said 26-year-old Cpl. Richard MacLean of Cambridge, one of the 15 reservists who trained full time for several months with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

"I've always wanted to look out for people who couldn't help themselves. Not everyone has the opportunity to live in a country like ours."

Many of the Fusiliers who will head overseas in the summer returned home to Waterloo Region for the holidays from training in Petawawa, Ont.

Soon they'll head back to train -- first in Texas, then in Alberta -- and to hone their skills in preparation for deployment.

MacLean and fellow Fusilier and section-mate Cpl. Nitin Sharma sat down at the Kitchener armoury to talk about their coming tour.

"It's going to be an experience of a lifetime," said Sharma, 20, of Kitchener. "Not many people get to actually go and do something like this. . . It will be a high point that you can look back at and tell your grandkids about."

Sharma's family moved to Canada from India when he was eight years old. Like many Fusiliers, he joined through a co-op program offered at his high school after his football coach advised him it would be a good fit.

When the opportunity to serve in Afghanistan came up earlier this year, both Sharma and MacLean seized it.

Sharma said his family had some initial concerns when he told them he had volunteered for Afghanistan.

"For them, it is a big thing to see their son join the army and want to go overseas," he said. "At first, it was a big deal, but now they're supportive of it because they know I want to do this and they know it will be a challenge for me."

MacLean has served in the army reserves for nearly eight years. He also joined as part of a high school co-op and stayed on afterward, working on military bases full time in the summer and training with the Fusiliers part time while finishing his degree at the University of Guelph.

"A lot of the guys see my grad ring and ask, 'What are you doing in the infantry with a university degree?' and I tell them that I want to be here."

MacLean worked a few "civilian jobs"

after university but put everything on hold once he received word he'd been chosen to train for Afghanistan.

"I wanted to clear everything away so I could go overseas," he said. "It's something I wanted to do before I had a family and got into a serious relationship."

Both men have their sights set on careers in policing. Both see the training and experience overseas as bringing them a step closer to that goal.

Their training has already exposed them to skills generally out of the reach of reservists.

MacLean has been trained to drive light armoured vehicles, or LAVs. His primary role in Afghanistan will be to drive the vehicles, and his secondary role will be to man the C-9 machine gun.

In addition to his regular courses, Sharma received advanced medic training. His primary role will be as a rifleman, and he could be manning the anti-armour weapon.

They both agree the equipment training has been valuable but said the lessons about how to interact with the Afghan people have been just as important.

They've been taught culturally accepted non-verbal cues, such as how to ask someone to stop or move, as well as appropriate topics of conversation.

Sharma picked up a phrasebook and is trying to learn a few words to help him interact with the locals.

"Just learning about their culture is kind of showing to them that we actually care about them and don't want to offend them," MacLean said.

"We want to win the hearts and minds. If they're backing us up too, it makes our job a lot easier."

Reservists make up about 10 per cent of the personnel on each rotation in Afghanistan. Volunteers are taken from the country's reserve brigade groups on a rotating basis.

If the deadline for the Canadian mission is not extended beyond February 2009, this will be the last time the 31 Brigade Group will be

called on to serve.

The last time members from southern Ontario's 31 Brigade Group -- made up of several reserve units, including London's 1st Hussars, Waterloo's 48 Field Engineer Squadron and the Fusiliers -- were called on was in 2006.

In August that year, 18 local reservists from the Fusiliers and the 48 Engineers departed on a six-month tour in southern Afghanistan.

Most of them returned home last February. Some Fusiliers who moved on to the regular forces have also served a tour, as have some local men and women who joined the Armed Forces as full-time members.

The group of 15 Fusiliers are now drawing on the experience of those men and women, MacLean said.

"They're always trying to pass on what they learned over there," MacLean said of the experienced soldiers.

"They say, 'We're trying to pass it on so you can use it over there to save your life or somebody else's.' "

MacLean and Sharma accept the mission has risks. They've heard the stories at Petawawa from soldiers who've returned from Afghanistan. They've also seen the news reports and watched the mounting death toll, including the latest casualty this weekend, 27-year-old Jonathan Dion who's armoured vehicle was struck by an IED.

But both said the experience and perspective they've gained in their training, and their hopes of making a difference once in Afghanistan, mitigate the fear.

"I'd rather live a short good life with purpose than live to be old with regrets and without accomplishment," MacLean said. "I don't feel my life would be fulfilled until I went over and did something like this."

Monday, December 31, 2007
MELINDA DALTON, The Record
Section: Afghanistan

Fallen soldier remembered as New Year's Eve day rolls in with little fanfare



MA'SUM GHAR, Afghanistan - New Year's approached with little fanfare on the front lines in Afghanistan on Monday as soldiers mourned the loss of a comrade killed just days before the end of what has been one of the bloodiest years since the Afghan mission began in 2002.

The day began with a sombre ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield for 27-year-old Gunner Jonathan Dion, killed Sunday when the older model light armoured vehicle he was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Television video showed one of his pallbearers visibly in tears as Dion's coffin was slowly carried onto a plane for his final journey home.

Four others suffered non-life threatening injuries in the attack, which occurred just after 9 a.m. along a paved highway some 20 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

Dion was heading to the comparative comfort of the base at Kandahar Airfield for New Year's. It was to be a brief break from the primitive, no-frills conditions at Forward Operating Base Wilson in remote Zhari district which he typically called home.

Master Cpl. Christian Bureau, a medic with the Van Doos who is usually stationed at the same base as Dion, was among the first on scene to help out.

"He was going to KAF to get his tour medal," Bureau said over breakfast in nearby Ma'Sum Ghar, where his team is filling in for about 10 days. "I knew

the sergeant who was injured."

Colleagues said the blast was the biggest they'd ever seen, tearing up the entire width of the road, Bureau noted.

Bureau, gearing up to spend his leave in Thailand, said incidents like that make him think twice about his plans.

"Sometimes I say, with everything going on, maybe I should go home because you never know," he said.

"We're having operations right up to the 25th of February. We're afraid of having more losses."

Comrades at FOB Wilson woke up early to pay their respects to Dion who was part of the 5th Regiment d'Artilerie legere du Canada from Val-d'Or, Que, a national newspaper reported.

"He loved the artillery," said Capt. Andrew Holleran, who led the ceremony for grief-stricken soldiers that included a moment of silence.

Holleran said Dion joined the regiment a year and a half ago, not long after he joined the military. This was his first overseas operation and he was due back in Canada in March.

Despite a luxury New Year's Eve lunch of filet mignon and baked potato, front line tankers and engineers in Ma'sum Ghar were back on hard rations by dinner time and spent most of the day maintaining their vehicles and recouping from a two-day operation in Sangisar.

Officers also recognized the hard work of their troops during a short parade in which several soldiers received honourable mentions and promotions.

By nightfall, balloons and noisemakers began making an appearance but few soldiers could really get into the spirit.

"I can't believe it's New Year's Eve," one of them said. ". . . I should be drunk right now."

Monday, December 31, 2007
Tobi Cohen, THE CANADIAN PRESS
Section: Afghanistan

January/February 2008 Issue of The Dugout



The January/February 2008 issue of The Dugout, will be released following the Executive meeting scheduled for January 3rd, 2008.

The tentative release dates are as follows:

By Email: January 4th, 2008;

For Pick-up in the Branch: January 8th, 2008; and

By Canada Post Mail-out: January 10th, 2008.

Tuesday, January 01, 2008
Gloria McKibbin, PRO
Section: Executive

The Dion Family Message



DM 07.013 - December 31, 2007

GATINEAU, Qc - The family of private Jonathan Dion killed in service in Afghanistan on December the 30th 2007, wishes to make public the following declaration:

It is never easy for parents to lose a child. We are devastated by the death of Jonathan who, with dignity, gave up his life serving his country with honour and pride alongside his brothers in arms in Afghanistan. We are extremely proud of our son and of what he accomplished during his life including his career in the Canadian Armed Forces. It will be his distinctive smile and his joie de vivre which will remain in our minds as we think of him. He loved being a soldier and loved being in the company of

brothers and sisters in arms.

Jonathan had found his rightful place in the Canadian Forces. He was maturing rapidly and showed that he was living life to the fullest and was developing his full potential. He was an example to all of his family and he was a great brother. Since he passionately believed in his mission in Afghanistan we supported him when he volunteered for this mission. Quite recently he was telling us he would like to return should there be a second tour.

Jonathan lived the major part of his life in the city of Gatineau. He loved his city, his small part of the country, and his neighbourhood. He wanted more than anything else to make a difference in the world around him. He died doing what he loved best, to be a soldier and serve his country.

Tuesday, January 01, 2008
The Dion Family, From www.forces.gc.ca
Section: Afghanistan

Sick and Visiting Update



Happy New Year! Thanks you all for your prayers over the Holidays, it seems to have paid off.

Ross Dowling was able to spend Christmas in Alberta with his family.

George Moser was discharged from G.R.H. before Christmas. He is still at home and the Doctor says it will take time for his leg to heal.

Morag Thompson is being discharged from St. Mary's Hospital today. She is feeling a lot better.

Bye for now,
Vivian

Wednesday, January 02, 2008
V Peddle, Sick and Visiting
Section: Sick and Visiting

Soldier follows great-grandad's footsteps



Canadian among 133 to receive Afghan service medal in New Year's ceremony.

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

More than a century ago, a young British army private returned home safely from battle along what is now the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. He later joined the Canadian Forces during the First World War and survived that conflict as well before going on to raise a family.

Four generations later, Pte. Charles Taylor's great-grandson has found himself in the same region battling another insurgency.

Maj. Walter Taylor was among 133 Canadian soldiers to proudly accept his own tour medal on New Year's Day for service in Afghanistan.

"I'm very glad to be able to follow in my great-grandfather's footsteps," Taylor said, clutching his great-grandfather's 1897 service medal for participating in the Trash Campaign.

"But obviously, for the reasons of the goals we're trying to accomplish here, I certainly hope my great-grandchildren aren't still here," the 34-year-old engineer with the 43rd field squadron quipped after the ceremony.

Just days after the Canadian Forces registered its 78th death in Afghanistan, the Ottawa native said he holds his great-grandfather's medal close to him as a bit of a talisman or good-luck charm.

"I don't really believe in any of the standard big world religions, but they say there's no such thing as an atheist in the fox hole," the Ottawa resident said.

"Everybody needs to believe that

there's somebody looking out for them and, in my case, I hope that my great-grandfather is doing that job for me."

While some things in this rugged, strife-riddle country have changed little in 110 years, much else has, he said.

For one thing, his great-grandfather's mission was one of colonization, he said, noting the insurgency took the form of a single tribe's battle for its own independence. "When the British were here in the 1850s it was to colonize the area against the will of the people," he said.

"We're here at the bequest of the democratically elected government of Afghanistan in order to provide assistance to them in establishing security and stability within their own country."

Canadian troops have spent the better part of the last two years battling the Taliban in the country's volatile south.

Taylor's great-grandfather's war took place slightly to the northeast, around the Khyber Pass linking Pakistan and Afghanistan -- more precisely, near the Pakistan city of Oshawa.

At yesterday's ceremony, Brig.-Gen. Guy Laroche told the recipients to be proud of their medals. "The mission, however, is not done," he said. "There's still work to do and I know that we will be able to complete this work."

Calling the medal a symbol of the sacrifices they've made to the mission, Laroche suggested the recipients' families also "deserve a part of this medal."

"We also must think of those who gave their lives for this mission," he added. "Those who were also hurt during this operation. . . . I think today is a good time to think about this."

An emotional affair for some, Sapper Matt Anderson couldn't help but break down in tears. The brand new dad said he was thinking of his seven-month-old daughter whom he'd only just started getting to know before he left for his tour in August.

Capt. David Holsworth said he was thinking mostly of colleagues who lost their lives or were injured in battle -- people like Gunner Jonathan Dion who was killed by a roadside bomb

just three days prior.

Wednesday, January 02, 2008
The Canadian Press
Section: Afghanistan

Kitchener-Waterloo MP deserves credit



Readers may know that I am the son of a veteran who fought on Juno beach in the Second World War and that for six years I had to fight to regain my rightful Canadian citizenship until finally succeeding early in December.

I was born in December 1944 to a British war bride. After the war, in 1946, my mom and I came to Canada on the Queen Mary to set up home together with my father in British Columbia.

But I was taken back to England by my mom and lived there most of my life. I tried to return to Canada on more than one occasion but was told I had lost my citizenship.

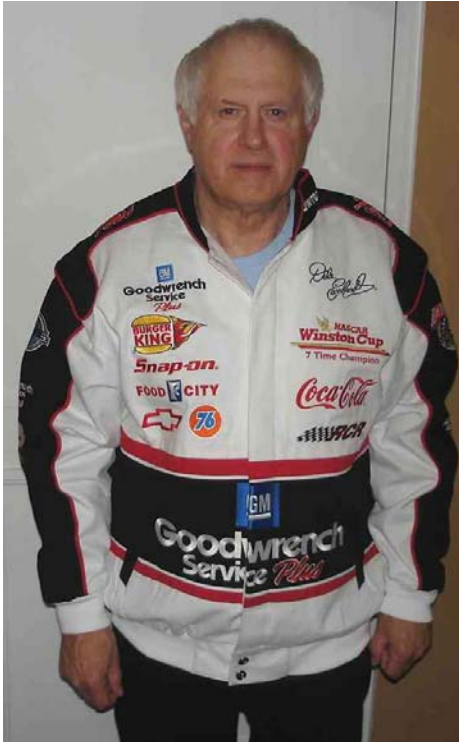
About six years ago I refused to accept this anymore, commenced my long legal battle with the government that you probably know about.

At an early stage I discovered that there were many other Canadians who had been unfairly stripped of their citizenship too. I gave evidence before the parliamentary committee on citizenship and immigration twice and met Andrew Telegdi, Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Waterloo who was chairman on the first occasion. He was incensed by this treatment of true Canadians, and has worked tirelessly to make sure that the existing laws which contravene the Charter of Rights and Freedoms are changed to conform.

The voters in this riding are fortunate to be represented by a man with such strong principles.

Wednesday, January 02, 2008
 Joe Taylor, Victoria BC
 Section: Veterans

And The Winner of the NASCAR Jacket is.....



The NASCAR Jacket, valued at \$450. which was donated by Herbie and Jim Cull, was drawn for at Branch 50's New Year's Eve Party. The winning ticket was drawn by President Dave Davidson, and the winner is Bob Hunter, of Kincardine, ON. Bob and his wife were guests at Branch 50's party of Dan & Libby Bucar, and Judy Littlefield & Donny Suska. Bob is pictured proudly showing off his new jacket to friends on New Year's morning. A special thank you to Herbie and Jim Cull for their very generous donation, and continued support of Branch 50.

Wednesday, January 02, 2008
 Gloria McKibbin, PRO
 Section: Entertainment

Our Condolences go out to Margaret (Maggie) Fleming



It is with great sadness, that I announce the passing of Margaret (Maggie) Fleming's mother, Mrs. Weiler, at Trinity Village Care Centre, on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2008.

Wednesday, January 02, 2008
 Vivian Peddle, Sick & Visiting
 Section: Births Deaths and Marriages

Get Well Wishes to Dorothy Hipkins,



Get well wishes go out to Dorothy Hipkins who has just been admitted to St. Mary's Hospital. Dorothy is a WWII Veteran, and has been a member of Branch 50 since September, 2006.

Wednesday, January 02, 2008
 Vivian Peddle, Sick & Visiting
 Section: Sick and Visiting

Public Relations Report to the Executive January 3, 2008

Following the November 25th General Meeting, Trevor German, webmaster, posted a survey on Branch 50's website which addressed the issue of Liability for objects left on the premises for any extended period of time, personal or otherwise.

30 members responded to this survey and the majority of respondents did not feel that the Legion should be responsible for replacement of lost or damaged personal items. A draw was held from all respondents to this survey, and the winner was Don Smith, and he will now receive a cheque in the amount of \$30.00.

Our current survey is asking member's opinions about The Dugout Newsletter. This survey will be open until January 31st, 2008.

Comrade President Dave has approved the addition of Ginny Polai to my Public Relations Committee. Ginny will be trained by Comrade Rob Yawney, on the computer program which runs the bar sign, so that she can assist me in keeping the information current.

In 2008, PRO & Membership Committees will be working together to recruit new members and encourage non-renewals to become active members again. Get your friends, neighbours and family to attend a branch function. You never know, they may just want to join!

Another Inter-Branch visit is in the planning stages with Branch #163 from Hamilton. They would like to have a five pin bowling challenge against the members of Branch #50. Watch the March/April issue of the Dugout for more details.

I received a copy of a letter from Princes Richard and Michael IODE chapter, which had been addressed to Mayor Carl Zehr, stating that they wish to continue presenting the flags to the RCL Branch 50, as long as their present members are able to purchase and present them annually on November 11th.

I also received a copy of a letter from The Honourable Mr. Justice James A. Ramsay, Superior Court of Justice, which was addressed to Police Chief M. Torigian, addressing "the recent article in the newspaper about a controversy over an officer wearing a poppy in court. I am writing to let you know that a poppy is always welcome in any court in which I preside."

The most recent figures available regarding 'The Troop Moral Fund' from Ontario

Command, were as of September 1, 2007. 42,000 certificates had been shipped to Afghanistan at a cost to the fund of \$83,827. To date, branches in Ontario have contributed approximately \$20,000. We have a container located at the bar if you wish to make a contribution for our Troops.

The next Dominion Convention will be held in Ottawa during June 22 – 25, 2008.

Friday, January 04, 2008
 Gloria McKibbin, PRO
 Section: Executive

Track & Field Report to the Executive January 3, 2008



Track & Field

The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command Winter Indoor Track & Field Championships, will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at York University, Metro Toronto, Track & Field Centre.

Branch 50, along with Branches 530 and 412, will be hosting the Provincial Track & Field Meet, in Kitchener, on July 18th & 19th, 2008.

Next meeting of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), responsible for organizing the Provincial meet, will be held on January 12th, hosted by the Elmira Branch.

Comrade President Dave has approved the addition of two members to my Track & Field Committee, and we will be having a meeting later in the month of January.

Friday, January 04, 2008
 Gloria McKibbin, Track & Field Chairman
 Section: Sports

Ways & Means Report



Effective with the first Saturday in January, 2008, we will be holding Grocery Day every week. We will be discontinuing Horsin' Around and Ticket Bucket. Please come out and support your branch on Saturdays.

Friday, January 04, 2008
 Louis Kuntz, Ways & Means Chairman
 Section: Executive

Youth Education Report to the Executive - January 3, 2008

In November on the 17th, we held the judging of the Art and Literary Competition at Branch 530 in Waterloo. My thanks to the judges who did an excellent job on a Saturday morning.

On Sunday February 17th Branch 50 will be holding the annual Public Speaking Contest for the Kitchener students, at Branch 50 starting about 10:30 a.m. (registration starts at 10:00).

Legion members are welcome to hear what our youth are capable of in their communication skills. Also extra hands make the morning go better – set-up starts at 9:30.

Hope your holiday went well,

Friday, January 04, 2008
 Reg Bielaski, Youth Ed Chairman
 Section: Executive

Upcoming Changes to the Tuesday Night Bar-B-Q



In November and December, 2007, we decided to experiment with the Tuesday Night Bar-b-q format, and held a 'Special Dinner' one Tuesday night per month. In November, we had a 'Spaghetti Dinner' while in

December, we had a 'Ham & Scallops Dinner'. Both of these events proved very successful with almost 60 people in attendance each time.

As of January 8th, 2008, and going forward for the winter months, your executive has decided to have a special dinner menu every Tuesday, except for the last Tuesday of each month. All Special Dinner nights will be \$4.00, and donations of desserts are welcome and appreciated.

The last Tuesday of each month will be a bar-b-q night. For the bar-b-q nights, you bring your meat or buy some at the branch, our volunteers cook it for you, and for a mere fee of \$3.00, you will get a baked potato, salads and dessert.

Where else can you get a meal at such a reasonable price, and have great comradeship too?

The decision for this change in format, was made to give our bar-b-q volunteers a break throughout the winter months.

Saturday, January 05, 2008
 Marguerite McNeelands
 Section: Canteen