



WEBNEWS

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Ontario : Branch 50 - FRED GIES, Kitchener. 🍷

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Week Ending February 23, 2008

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Public Relations Report to the Executive



It is now time to prepare the next edition of The Dugout for the months of March & April, 2008. Please make sure you have any items to me no later than February 25th if you wish them to be included. I will not be accepting submissions after this date because it causes more work and delays the release date. The January/February, 2008 edition had to be revised twice before it could finally go to the printer.

The last edition was copied and mailed by Pak Mail, the company who did the work previously so I have disbanded my Dugout volunteer committee.

I surveyed many members via telephone about The Dugout as requested by this executive. The general consensus is that they wish to continue receiving it and a few have indicated that they would be willing to pay an additional fee to help cover mailing costs.

There remains to be a few issues with the membership data base on the branch web-site which I believe can be corrected if that area is changed to a 'READ ONLY' only section.

An icon would then be available for members to email the office with any changes to their information, and once done my Diane, would be forwarded to the membership committee for notification to Command.

Next Friday, February 22nd, Karen

Redman, MP will be hosting the Annual Thank You luncheon for veterans at the Holiday Inn, here in Kitchener. Many of our branch's veterans will be in attendance along with family members.

Monday, February 18, 2008
Gloria McKibbin, PRO
Section: Executive

Track & Field Report to the Executive



Track & Field

The Ontario Command Winter Indoor Track & Field meet was held at York University

this past Saturday, February 9, 2008.

I received a registration form listing ten (10) athletes who were to compete but to date,

Have not been notified of their results. I also tried to locate the meet results on the

Ontario Command web-site but they are not as yet posted.

Plans continue going well for the Provincial Track & Field meet to be hosted in

Kitchener, this July. The next meeting for the organizing committee is scheduled for

Saturday, March 1st, 2008, at the Elmira Legion.

Monday, February 18, 2008
Gloria McKibbin, Track & Field Chairman
Section: Sports

Get Well Wishes Go Out To Reg Bielaski



The members of Fred Gies Branch 50 extend their wishes for a speedy recovery to Reg Bielaski, Youth Education & Bursary Chairman, who is currently recovering from surgery in Cambridge Memorial Hospital.

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Gloria McKibbin for Vivian Peddle
Section: Sick and Visiting

Government of Canada Provides More Support to Increase Awareness of Veterans' Stories



Victoria, BC - The Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today announced funding of up to \$15,000 through Veterans Affairs Canada's Community Engagement Partnership Fund for the Military Oral History Conference. This conference is a joint initiative between the University of Victoria and the Royal United Services Institute, Vancouver Island Chapter.

"This conference provides a tremendous opportunity for Canadians to increase their knowledge of military history and gain an understanding of the price our Veterans paid for freedom," said Minister Thompson. "By expanding our understanding and appreciation of our Veterans' personal stories, we are honouring their sacrifices."

This conference is being hosted by the University of Victoria from February 20 to 23, 2008. During the conference, university students, academics, and public historians will learn first-hand about Veterans and their stories.

The Community Engagement Partnership Fund provides funding to

non-profit groups, educational institutions and other organizations delivering remembrance activities and events. Administered through Veterans Affairs Canada's Canada Remembers program, contributions are made throughout the year and encompass both national and community-based projects.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Veteran Affairs Canada
Section: Veterans

Minister of Veterans Affairs Speaks to ANAVETS



Good afternoon members of the executive.

Honoured Veterans. Ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you once again for inviting me to the annual ANAVETS's Friends of the Veterans lunch. It's a pleasure to be here.

This is also my first chance to speak with you since our good friend and colleague John Thompson passed away. And before I go any further, please allow me to express my sincere condolences.

Anyone who had the chance to meet John knows that he was a remarkable individual, and that he served both ANAVETS and the Veterans community extremely well.

John truly cared about the work he was doing, and he brought great passion and great compassion to his job. He was determined to make a real and lasting difference - and he did.

It now falls upon us to continue what John started. You have done that by naming Gord as your acting president, and I want to congratulate him on his selection.

By working together we can realize John's goals. We can achieve your goals. Our goals.

Every one of us in this room is committed to making sure that our Veterans and their families are leading healthy, rewarding and productive lives. And we also realize that there are challenges we have to overcome

along the way.

There is no "one size fits all" with any of the programs and services we provide - whether it's the Veterans Independence Program, medical treatments or long-term care beds. Each Veteran's needs are unique. And we've got to be flexible and innovative in meeting them.

We want to make sure that these honoured men and women can live their twilight years to the fullest. That they can continue to contribute to this great nation -- just as you've always done.

And we are determined to make that happen, as quickly as possible. In fact, we are already well on our way.

In just two years, we've delivered on our promises to adopt a Veterans' Bill of Rights and to appoint a Veterans ombudsman. We've implemented the New Veterans Charter and we've found a solution for the Agent Orange testing at CFB Gagetown.

These are real accomplishments. This is real action. And we will continue delivering - whether it's improving the way we serve you or expanding programs such as our network of operational stress injury clinics.

You've earned our full support. You deserve our full support. And you have our full support.

Thank you. Merci.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Minister of Veterans Affairs
Section: Veterans
