



Volume 4 Number 3

CONTACT!

March 2015

www.kanatabr638.ca

President's Report

Our Zone convention was held on March 15, and comrade George Wood is our new Zone Commander.

Branch elections will be held on April 15. Our nominating Chair, Gord McCaskill, has placed nomination forms on the lounge bulletin board and you are invited to submit your nomination for your executive as soon as possible.

The St. Patrick's Day party was held last Saturday with over 80 members and friends in attendance. It was a great evening with fantastic food prepared by Sue McLean and company. Thanks to Lorraine Lapensée for organizing the evening and to all who worked so hard to make it a success.

The branch will celebrate the end of our mortgage payments with a mortgage burning cocktail party on April 25, from 1pm to 4pm. The actual burning will take place at approximately 2pm. Everyone is invited.

John Cher
President

From the 1st Vice

As we very slowly usher spring into 2015, we are looking forward to a bright new year at the branch, a mortgage-free branch that has a plethora of new beginnings to look forward to.

What are we going to do with our new freedom? Very soon we will be entertaining ideas of new paint, furniture and the like. A truly great time! As spring comes into being, we have much entertainment to come, honours and awards to look forward to and, of course, don't forget the elections coming up. An exciting time to be sure! Your executive is busy looking at how to proceed yet keeping the high standard of yesterday. I would like to thank all of our executive and volunteers who have made this new beginning possible.

Honestly, folks, spring *is* coming.

Dan Knighton
1st VP

From the Sports Desk

We have a zone horseshoe tournament coming up at West Carleton May 23, and golf tournament June 6. Volunteers, please contact me. The sign-up sheets are on the Sports Board outside the office. Also, there is going to be a district shuffleboard tournament April 4 (location TBA) (you just might see our old table there) and we are having a trial for 'Bid Euchre' same day in West Carleton. Contact me for more info.

Dan Knighton
Branch Sports Officer
613 864 1920



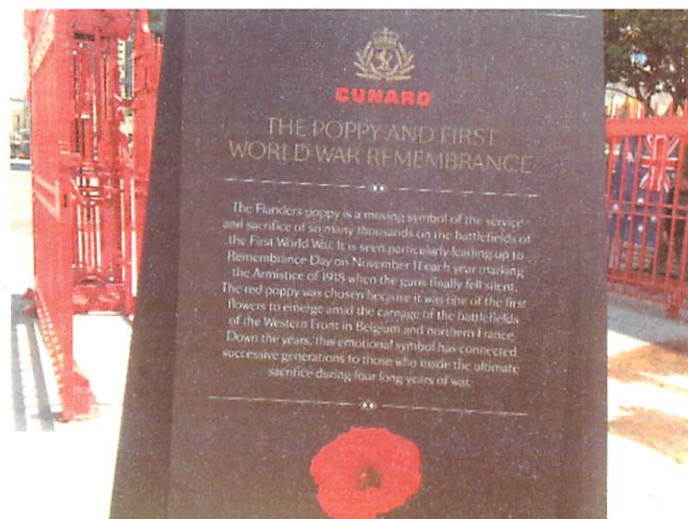
Honours and Awards

As always, there are nomination sheets on the notice board for anyone who would like to recommend someone for a job well done. Your H&A committee will consider all.

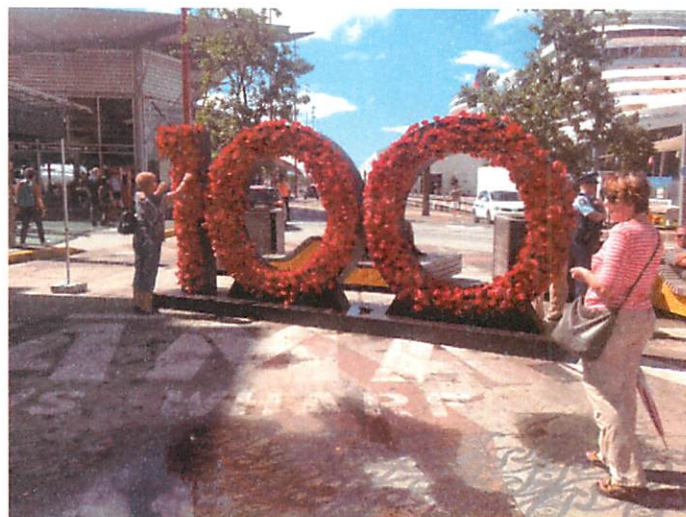
Dan Knighton
H&A Chairman

From the 2nd Vice

Kiwis in Auckland commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. All told, 80,000 lives were lost, including 8,700 Australians and 2,799 New Zealanders. It is said that this campaign became a defining event in the formation of New Zealand's national identity.



The poppies were very large and were pinned to the styrofoam numbers with huge pins. The event raised funds for the Returned Servicemen's Association. Beside the wharf is the *Queen Elizabeth*, built by the Cunard shipping line, which supplied the troop ships during the war. This year, *Queen Elizabeth* will visit New Zealand as part of the commemoration celebrations. It was interesting to be there for this Poppy Day.



Elections are in April. It would be great to see some new faces on the executive this year. Please consider running for a position and/or nominating a person who you think could do the job.

New Zealand was a great place to visit; however, I am thankful to be a Canadian and glad to be home.

Yours in continued service,

Maira

Colour Party Report

The colour party has participated in three events already this year. The first event was The Youth and Education Awards on January 18 at the branch.

A legion tribute for a Perley Rideau Veterans Health Care Centre resident on February 21. It was down town at St Mathews Anglican church. It went well, but driving conditions were terrible.

The final event was Youth Public Speaking on March 7 at the branch (photo, next page).



I would like to remind everyone again that not only are veterans entitled to a Legion Tribute/Service, all legion and LA members are also entitled to this. If you would like one, please let your loved ones know this. I have. Also, it would be helpful if a family member or friend could notify the branch in a timely manner.

If there is to be no service, the least we can do and will do is lower the flag to pay respect to the member.

We are still looking for new colour party members. There is a core group and we always manage to come up with a good showing. However, a lot of the colour party members wear two hats. A couple of new faces would help spread out the load. Let me know if you are interested.

Bob Thomson
Sgt-at-Arms
613-831-8221
dieseljohn@rogers.com

From the Branch Secretary

The next Kanata Branch general meeting is:

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.
It is election night! It is your legion, and your vote matters! All Kanata legion members are encouraged to come out to vote, if possible.

Thank you.

Lorraine Lapensée

The Irish and the Irish-at-Heart ...

... came out to the Kanata legion's St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance on, March 14, 2015! The Kanata legion turned into green with shamrock decorations, green beer, green guests to celebrate our patron saint, St. Patrick! Approximately 80 guests were entertained by Irish dancers from the Sue Fay Healy School of Traditional Irish Dance performing a variety of Irish dance with unique dance steps and choreography! One could appreciate the hard work, practice and talent required to present as good a performance as these young dancers (ages 4-17) did!



Irish names of guests were displayed: Boyle, Colleen, and many more. Guests met the challenge to complete a St. Patrick's Day quiz, and the 1st place winner was June Tyrrell!

Guests enjoyed a delicious meal including Irish beef stew, corned beef and cabbage, colcannon (traditional Irish potato dish), soda bread, bread pudding. There was dancing and singing along to Irish songs and other music provided by Hawley DJ Services! Everybody was Irish on March 14th at the Kanata legion.





The Ways and Means Entertainment Recruitment Committee (WERC) wishes to thank all those who came out to support the Kanata legion's St. Patrick's Day event and hopes that you enjoyed the evening.

To the volunteers who helped make this event a success, a **BIG THANK YOU** to

- ♣ Amanda Robbins for poster and ticket design and printing
- ♣ Judy Homma, Mary Jo Gauthier and June Tyrrell for the decorations
- ♣ Moira Green and Mark Hunter for bar tending
- ♣ Bob and John Thomson for hall set-up and clean-up
- ♣ Lydia and Garry Fancy as ticket takers
- ♣ Jane Cane and Bev Connell for table setting and clearing
- ♣ Sue McLean as Chief Cook
- ♣ Jackie Terris, food preparation
- ♣ Gaetan Chartier, baking and server
- ♣ Lynn McPherson, kitchen coordinator, table clearer, etc.
- ♣ Bill Molnar, server and table clearer
- ♣ June Tyrrell, table clearer
- ♣ Dave McPherson, dishwasher
- ♣ George Pollock, dishwasher and server



Lorraine Lapensée, Chair, WERC

Kitchen Korner

It's been a busy month! The end of February saw the Ottawa Food Handlers' course presented to 13 of our members. The results are now coming in, and so far, I have not heard of anyone not passing. This is how I was notified of one member receiving his certificate! Congratulations!

The Food Handler

by Denis Pelletier

Yippy yippy yai, yippy yippy yea,
 Denis received his card today!
 Diners may wine and others complain
 That Denis has lost an order again,
 But none can claim in this debate
 That he has no certificate.

I took the course and wrote the test
 Now I stand among the best.
 I wash my hands ten times each day
 And treat all food in a respectful way.
 My hands are clean, I wear a hat
 Now none can complain about that.



On March 7th, our branch hosted the Zone Public Speaking Contest. Thank you to Jackie and Moira for assisting in preparing the lunch!

Despite power outages (thankfully the branch was not affected), and rotten weather, the St. Patrick Day festivities occurred with no hitches. Thank you to Jackie, Gaetan, Bill, George P., and Dave McP. for all the hard work you contributed!



Sue McLean, Kitchen Manager

"Say, SPEECH!"

Across Ontario Royal Canadian Legions offer opportunity for youth to participate in public speaking competitions to develop confidence and gain public speaking experience. Competitions are divided into four categories: Primary, Grades 1, 2, 3; Junior, Grades 4, 5, 6; Intermediate, Grades 7, 8, 9; Senior, Grades 10, 11, 12. First place winners from the branch level representing six legions (Almonte, Arnprior, Carleton Place, Lanark, Perth, Smiths Falls) competed at the next Youth Education Public Speaking level, Zone, on Saturday, March 7, 2015, hosted by our branch. First place winners of each category will compete at the District level on March 28, 2015, at the Eganville legion.



Junior Category

Back row: Left to right - Award presenters: Dave Cormier, Zone G6 Commander; George Wood, Deputy Zone G6 Commander

Front row: Left to right - Proud participants: Grace Burke; Sage Cunniffe-2nd Place winner; Kristen Currie; Connor Dawson; Rylie Dods-1st place winner.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Branch #638-Kanata for hosting the Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking Competition, March 7, 2015, and covering the cost of the lunch; thank you to members who volunteered as judges, timekeepers, scrutineers, runners, colour party, cooks and servers, hall set-up. A successful competition for the youth!

Lorraine Lapensée, Chair
Zone G6 Youth Education Public Speaking

Cadet Support

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets' 706 Snowy Owls Squadron wishes to thank Branch 638 for our support. Cadets were invited to submit an essay on the topic, "Skills that I have learned in Cadets that will help me in life." The Squadron's Sponsoring Committee's 2nd Vice Chair, John Montgomery, provided our Cadet Liaison Office, Bill Wilson, a copy of the winning essay by **Warrant Officer 2nd Class Andriy Predmyrskyy**. He is apparently finishing his first year of Engineering at the University of Ottawa with the goal of pursuing a career in Aeronautical Engineering.

To whom it may concern:

I would like you to imagine a boy. He is in the seventh grade. He has long hair and an awkward flick cowlick near his forehead. As he walks, he stares at the ground, shoulders hunched over, hands in his pockets. He is quiet and shy, reads almost incessantly, keeps to himself even in a crowd, and does his homework every night. Anyone would say that he is an average boy. The only thing that is different between him and anyone else is that this boy likes planes. He doesn't study makes and models or recite military history, but he loves the idea of powered flight.

I was that boy. And one decision changed my life. It wasn't even my idea. It was my parents who told me of an organization that asked for nothing more than time, and promised everything from leadership to independence, to a pilot's license. Who could say "no" to such an offer?

Only five years have passed since then. In the time it takes for you to say "when did they manage to grow up?" I was able to learn skills that I would never have acquired otherwise. Starting from my first year I became aware of the follower-leader dynamic. I learned it was not only fine, but better to ask for help when you needed it, and every cadet I met was more than willing to. Even something as underrated as basic training taught me how to better deal with others, in addition to forcing me to learn how to take care of my clothing, my bed, and myself.

I remember spending my first few nights at 706 in the corner, reading as I always did. But by the time I finished my first year I learned how to more

effectively deal with people, something I could never do as a socially awkward child, and how to make friends from peers I had never met. However, at the end of my first year, I was still quiet and shy.

It was my second year that changed who I was. Another year had gone by at my squadron, and I had been sent to Basic Fitness and Sports in Greenwood, Nova-Scotia. I remember looking at the other kids and thinking "I wish I could be as open as them" and it soon occurred to me: at Greenwood, nobody knew who I was. Most kids were outside of my region, and I'd be very lucky if I saw any of them again. It was then that I decided to cast off any and all shyness I had. I chose to open up.

It was something new for me. I would say "hello" to random strangers, I would speak my mind and let myself free. It took more than a little effort, but I saw my shell erode. I found that people liked me more, I was having more fun, and was being noticed. I spoke up and let my ideas be known. I made it obvious what I was good at, tried my hardest and pushed myself. Quiet boy no longer. I remember getting this crazy idea in my head that I wanted to have a parade position, so I auditioned, and was a flight commander for my graduation. It was a summer that I will never forget.

And yet, these experiences just kept coming. I remember taking the Basic Leadership course the next year and becoming familiar with all aspects of taking charge, of becoming a good follower. I remember having to deal with people I absolutely hated, but we got along anyways. All these experiences, all this knowledge, at the end of each summer, on Thursday every week, coming back to my squadron.

The next year I took the Survival Instructor course, learned the ins and outs of making it in the wild. I will always remember the sense of camaraderie I felt at the end of those six weeks. Over 40 different kids from 20 different squadrons, and all of them, one family. I will remember the struggles of learning my way with a compass, blazing my own

trail in the woods, making fires from nothing, and not only surviving but thriving off of roots and twigs and mother nature's singular embrace. I will never forget the beauty of seeing the stars in their full glory, miles from any light, seeing the night sky as it was meant to be seen.



I included Andriy's essay in its entirety. I almost cried as I read it, recognizing that my son, Patrick Elmas, had a parallel experience in Sea Cadets' Centurion Squadron of the Royal Canadian Navy League (poster above). Patrick is in his final year at Carleton University, where he is studying Criminology.

Lorraine Elmas, Editor

And was it so recently as last year that I went through the trials and tribulations of becoming a pilot? Finally achieving a lifelong aspiration, going from the ground up to the clouds, seeing for miles and flying so gracefully that doves were envious? Nothing that summer was easy. Studying for hours, meeting every deadline and minimum, living with new people, growing so close to some only to watch them leave. It was a hard summer, but not

one I would ever want to live without.

Yet throughout all of this, I was growing at home as well. I saw what I was learning at cadets apply to my school marks, to my home life. Cadets forced me to become organized, to deal with my problems before they became problems, to grow from my mistakes. It taught me how to lead, how to follow, how to listen, and how to learn. It gave me an opportunity to grow, trusting me with responsibility, showing me that I can do better, that I can push, that I can excel. I have become more even tempered and more active in my life.

I began studying harder, and I watched my marks increase. I began making my bed, taking care of my problems, starting all my projects early, completing them before they were due. I have become a more apt leader, being careful of how I mix my honey and vinegar, watching my temper, and knowing when my emotions are getting the better of me. I have learned to work in teams, despite my personal opinions, learned how to synergize and how to compromise, how to unite teams, and how to become an invaluable part of one.

Along the road I have become more open, more friendly, more amiable and proud. I have become

aspirational, inspirational and reliable. I have learned the art of leading and following, polishing and buffing (in more than one sense). I have picked up how to make it in almost any survival situation, learned first aid, become a true team player, and even gotten better at telling jokes. I have discovered the importance of putting my studies first, learned how to cope with seemingly impossible obstacles, and how to deal with crushing disappointment. I have become independent, self-aware, and more socially acute than I ever thought I could be. And how many people can say that they've been granted all these benefits, and come out with a pilot's license? I would like you to imagine the same boy, now a

young man. His hair is short, and his voice is lower, but he has the same eyes. Eyes filled with wonder, with excitement, brimming with a knowledge of all there is yet to learn. He walks now with a full stride, sure of each step. His head is held high, his back straight, his motion confident, and he walks assured that he will be able to achieve more, learn more, become more. He has learned so much, but "much" is not enough. He will train to the highest standard, and that is more than a skill: It is a promise.

Sincerely,

WO2 Predmyrskyy, Andriy

For Your Information



With more than 70 retirement residences in the Ottawa area, how do you decide which one is best for you and your loved ones?

How do you find the time to do all the research?



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Amy McConnell
www.teaandtoast.ca
613.406.6031

Tea &
toast

70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands

OTTAWA, Feb. 17, 2015 /CNW/ - The Honourable Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today announced plans for an official Government of Canada delegation to travel to the Netherlands in 2015, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. The delegation will be comprised of Veterans who served on land, in the air and at sea during the Second World War campaign.

In addition, the Government of Canada is offering financial assistance for any Veteran of the campaign wishing to travel to the Netherlands to attend Government of Canada commemorative events taking place from May 3–9, 2015. To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1488661/government-of-canada-to-commemorate-70th-anniversary-of-the-liberation-of-the-netherlands-in-2015>

Preparation of 2014 Tax Returns

Our President, John Cher, has made arrangements with Gord Hawley, a tax specialist, to be available at the Branch on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. to prepare your SIMPLE tax forms FREE of charge for branch members over the age of 65 years old. For members under 65 years of age, or with complicated tax forms, a nominal fee will be charged. For more information and to arrange an appointment, please contact Gord at gordonedwardhawley@gmail.com or 613-371-2280.

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ServiceOntario

Military Reunion

There is going to be a 2016 #1 Air Division Cruise Reunion, open to all who served in Europe from 1950 to 1991. You can access the information at our web page

<http://airdivisionreunion20163.shawwebspace.ca>

or our face book page

#1 Air Division (Europe) Reunion 2016

You can also contact Gary Arnold, retired military, at garnold@cruiseshipcenters.com res: 1 800 661 3770

or Christine Eden at christina1942@shaw.ca

Wanted...

Pipers and Drummers for Kanata's own Highland Mist Pipe Band

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Royal Canadian Legion, Kanata Branch 638

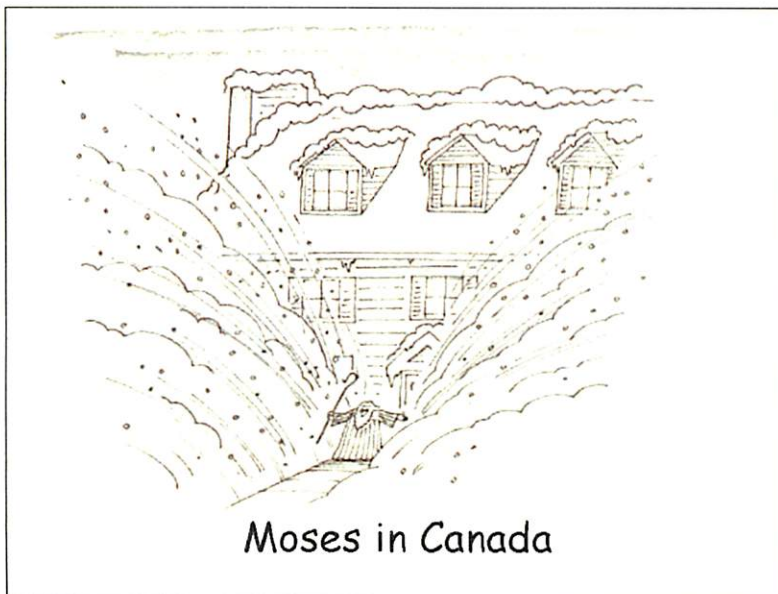
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70 Hines Rd. Kanata

Further Details: contact Brenda Grant
H (613) 832-4127 or C (613) 863-4051
brenda.grant@opera.ncf.ca



Moses in Canada

Submitted by
John Cher



Spring Wing Ding

Dinner and Dance

Friday, April 10, 2015

Reception: 6:00 p.m./Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

MENU: WINGS, FRIES, CHILI, PIES, SQUARES

Back by Popular Demand!

Debra McCann

Music to Sing and Dance to!

Tickets: \$10.00 per Person/Advance Ticket Sales Only

Tickets available at the bar - Pick up by April 7

613-591-5570

70 Hines Road, Kanata



Kanata Legion & Ladies' Auxiliary

Upcoming Events

March 27, 2015 - June 13, 2015

Date & Times	Event	Details	Tickets	Cut-off Date For Tickets
Fri. 27-Mar-15 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. pizza	Pizza Night		\$3.50/slice No tickets – get your name on sign-up sheet	Cut-off date to sign-up is 27-Mar-15 before 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 29-Mar-15 2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.	March birthday & anniversary celebrations	Cake & Ice Cream	Not applicable	Not applicable
Fri. Apr. 10 Reception: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.	Spring Wing Ding Back by popular demand featuring: <i>Debra McCann!</i>	<i>Wings! Chili! Fries!</i> <i>Sing-a-long & dance to Debra McCann!</i>	\$10.00/person	Cut-off date to sign-up Apr. 7/15
Fri. Apr.24-15 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. pizza	Pizza Night		\$3.50/slice No tickets – get your name on sign-up sheet	Cut-off date to sign-up is 24-Apr-15 before 5:00 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 25-15 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Burning the Mortgage Cocktail Party	2:30 p.m. Speeches Burning the mortgage		To be announced
Sun. Apr. 26-15 2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.	April birthday & anniversary celebrations	Cake & Ice Cream	Not applicable	Not applicable
Fri. May 8	70 th Anniversary End of WWII dinner evening	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced
Sat. May 23 Reception: 12:00 p.m. Fashion Show 1:00	High Tea & Fashion Show –	Moore's Men's Clothing Alia N TanJay Women's clothing; Jewellery, Bags, Fascinators, Scarves, Photographer, Nails	\$18.00 / person	
Fri. May 29 5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. pizza	Pizza Night		\$3.50/slice No tickets – get your name on sign-up sheet	Cut-off date to sign-up is 29-May-15 before 5:00 p.m.
Sun. May 31-15 2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.	May birthday & anniversary celebrations	Cake & Ice Cream	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sun. May 31 5:00 p.m.	Honours & Awards Presentations	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced
Sat. June 13	Ladies' Auxiliary's Country Fair	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced

CONTACT! is published monthly by the Kanata Branch 638 in Kanata, Ontario. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors or the editor, and not necessarily those of the Royal Canadian Legion or Branch 638.

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