



CONTACT!

Volume 4 Number 5

May 2015

www.kanatabr638.ca

President's Message

Our branch mortgage burning party had approximately 75 members and guests in attendance. We were honoured to have as our guests Comrade Ken Sorrenti, Vice President of Ontario Command, Comrade Garry Pond, District Commander, Comrade George Woods, Zone Commander Elect. A great meal was provided by Leatherworks. Thanks to Terry Jenkins for organizing this great event. Thank you to Dan Knighton for providing the wine.

May 8th was the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Another fantastic meal was presented by Leatherworks for this occasion. Our World War II Veteran guest speaker, Tom Dent, gave an account of his pilot training with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada during the war. Thanks to Judy Honna, June Tyrrell, George Pollock and Dave McPherson for setting up and Dan Knighton for a great job on organizing this evening.

Thank you to Lorraine Lapensée and the Ways and Means Committee for the hard work and for organizing the past several functions.

The Honours and Awards evening will take place on May 31st, starting at 5:30 pm.

Our annual veteran's luncheon will be held at the end of June. The date has not yet been confirmed with the Perley. More information will be sent via email as soon as possible.

We are in desperate need of volunteers for **fish 'n chips** if we are to continue every Friday. Needed are chip and fish friers as well as servers. Training will be provided.

John Cher
President

From the 1st Vice

So much happened in the past month, it only seems like yesterday I was reporting in our April edition. I believe there are still a few Executive positions open, and our President, John Cher, is still holding interviews. We are very happy that Comrade Moira Green will be holding onto her position as chair of the Poppy & Remembrance Campaign and stepping up to the plate for some of the Remembrance Day services. Thank you, Moira.

It looks like spring sprang into summer then back to winter again, but now it seems we are into summer for sure. The parking lot sweeping has been done and is nearly all cleaned up. Our branch has had its spring cleaning and is now spic and span thanks to the services of Comrade Bruce. Comrade Judy has spruced up the outside with some flower planting, and we have already had the grass cut. (If I missed anyone who helped out with any of these projects, I apologize).

As I'm sure you are all aware, our Mortgage Burning Ceremony was a complete success, as was our dinner and celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the end of WW II. Many thanks to all who helped make these two events the success they were. Once again, it's the volunteers who make it all happen. Thank you! Looking forward to the next two BIG events. Watch for them within this issue.

All the best,

Dan Knighton
1st Vice President



From the Sports Desk

Coming up is our Zone Golf to be held June 6 in Arnprior. Still looking for players; the sign-up sheet is on the sports board. Any volunteers wishing to play, please contact me. Again, all sign-up sheets are on the sports board outside the office, as are any sporting event results to be passed on.

Dan Knighton
Branch Sports Officer
613-864-1920

Honours and Awards

Presentations and Celebrations: May 31, 2015

The nominations are in and we are almost ready to party. Congratulations ahead of time to all branch members and outside volunteers who have so aptly stepped up to the plate and just plain worked hard all year. Thank-you to all!

Please consider this announcement your "Invitation to our Annual Honours and Awards Presentations and Dinner May 31, 2015." Reception starts at 5:30. See you all there!

Dan Knighton
H&R Chairman

Here's a joke for you...

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied,

"I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said,

"But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied,

"They will in a minute."

From the 2nd Vice

This is my last report as 2nd Vice. I thank all of you for the support given to me in this role over the last four years. It is time to step down from this position.

I will continue my service as past president and life member and thank all concerned for the Meritorious Service Medal, which I proudly wear. It is my intention to continue as poppy chair for 2015 and, as Comrade John Gooch has now retired, I will also organize and conduct our remembrance services at our 10 venues. I will be looking for your help and support for these events in the fall.

Best wishes to the executive for the coming year.

Yours in continued service,

Moir
2nd Vice President

Poppy Fund Cheque Presentations



Poppy fund presentation to the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice, Kanata, by Moira Green, Poppy Chair, and Doug Rowland, Poppy Trust Fund Chair.



Presented to Executive Director Peter Tilley and Jack Merta of the Ottawa Mission



Presented to Karrilee Bowles of the Queensway Carleton Foundation



This \$15,000 cheque is presented to Patricia Royle, Veterans Service Officer, Ontario Command, by Moira Green, Poppy Chair, and Doug Rowland, Poppy Trust Fund Chair.

Editor: I was with Lorraine Lapensee and her sister Lynda on Friday, May 1st, when at 6:42 p.m. an email came in from the McPhersons. Overcome with emotion, she read us the following message.



Hello Everyone,

Miracles happen as long as you believe. The phone call came early last evening to report immediately to the Heart Institute as a heart was available. Today the miracle happened for us. A heroic family generously gave our Jimmy the gift of a heart. After more than two long years our wait is over. Jim is in ICU at the Ottawa Heart Institute and he is doing as well as can be expected after eight hours of surgery. Marah, Brett and Ellis are finally resting at home, knowing that Jim is being well cared for by a very experienced team of doctors and nurses.

Your generosity, your kindness and warm wishes over the last few years has helped us all so much as we struggled through this long and often lonely wait. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and good wishes.

85% of Ontario residents believe in organ donation; however, only about 25% have actually signed up. If you haven't signed up yet, get out your health card and go to: beadonor.ca. It will take less than 2 minutes to sign up. One donor can save up to 8 lives. The oldest donor on record was 94 years young.

*Cheers,
Dave and Lynn*

♥♥♥♥♥ May 18 update from Lynn ♥♥♥♥♥

Since May 1st, it has been a bit of a rocky road for Jim. He continues to improve slowly despite some setbacks. He spent the long week-end back in ICU to have dialysis trying to remove some of the fluid from his body. All organs are stressed when a transplant takes place, and the doctors are trying to lessen the stress on Jim's kidneys. He is very upbeat, and despite being in pain at times he is very grateful to the donor and his family. We all pray every day for this generous family, who, in

their time of sorrow, generously gave the gift of life to Jim.

If you have the time, check out facebook.com/JimsHearts and you will see the many pictures and words of encouragement being sent to Jim from friends and family around the world. Marah has requested everyone to send her a picture of heart hands (hearts in the shape of hands) that she will compile and send to the donor family so they will understand how wonderful their gift was, and how grateful so many people are for their generous gift of life!

We will never get to meet the donor family; the book of thanks Marah is sending will be done through Trillium Gift of Life (transplant organization in Ontario). We will pray for them every day, and ask God to bless their family and ease their pain. We know their loved one entered heaven to the sound of trumpets that is reserved for heroes.

beadonor.ca

1 organ donor can save **8** lives.

Registering is easy.

Visit **beadonor.ca**

or call 1-800-263-2833

ServiceOntario



Mortgage Burning - a Day to Celebrate

Opening Remarks by John Cher

Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to present our honoured guests: Comrade **Ken Sorrenti**, Vice President of Ontario Command; Comrade **Garry Pond**, District G6 Commander; Comrade **George Woods**, Zone Commander Elect, and Comrade **Betty Ann Pollock**, Ladies' Auxiliary Zone Commander.



Branch 638 charter members present: **George Pollock**, **Clay Wheaton**, **Jack Edelson** and **Mike Chopowick**



Our past presidents, **Ivan Hawley** and **Moira Green**



Our Ladies' Auxiliary president, **June Tyrrell**; the Ladies' Auxiliary past presidents, **Lorraine Lapensee**, **Claire Riley** and the first Ladies' Auxiliary president, **Betty Ann Pollock**

Honoured guests, comrades, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a celebration of the hard work by a large number of dedicated people who helped make Branch 638 the vibrant community it is today. We also celebrate those who although unable to volunteer gave us their continuous and heartfelt support.

We acknowledge our charter members without whom we wouldn't be here. I'm sure they could tell us a lot of interesting stories about the beginnings of this branch. I'm told that at one point they had a special lottery. Each month they would put the bills in a pile and the winning one would get paid that month. It was a difficult time, but they persevered. A lot of hours and effort went into keeping this branch afloat. Today, bills are paid a day or two after they are received. The amazing thing is, that this huge undertaking was accomplished solely by volunteers.

I would like to mention names of people who helped over the years, but I don't want to keep you here all afternoon. Also I know that if I mentioned names I would surely miss a deserving few. We are thankful for all their tireless work and support.

When elected president four years ago, I mentioned that paying off the mortgage early was one of my priorities. We paid it off 14 months early, and this was accomplished by the hard work of many branch and L.A. members and by members and their friends who attended our functions.

To all the people present and to those who couldn't be here, to all who worked so hard for Branch 638, so we could be here today, ***I thank you.***



Remarks by Comrade Ken Sorrenti

Thank you for this invitation to participate in your mortgage burning ceremony. I bring greetings from the senior elected officers and staff on Ontario Command.

I came across a meeting report dated July 20, 1989, from then Zone Commander Clive Morris. In attendance were Chairman George St. Aubin, Secretary/Treasurer Frank Wilson, Kanata Council Liaison Frank Berry, Deputy District G Commander Jim Margerum and approximately 50 interested legion members. This was the third meeting in a series of meetings dating back to 1987 when the idea to start a legion branch in Kanata was first proposed.

There were some interesting comments in that report. At a June 2, 1988, meeting, it was stated that the Campeau Corp. had donated a site for a legion building. However, sometime later, this offer was withdrawn. June 1989, Kanata city council agreed to sell the legion a site of 1.5 acres for \$1.00 with six conditions.

The City of Kanata straddled both Zone G5 and G6. George St. Aubin indicated that his preference would be for the Kanata legion to be in Zone G6. The new site is at the intersection of Hines Road and old Highway 17.

As of June 2, 1988, 24 applications for membership had been received. As of July 13, 1989, 44 bona fide applications had been received, approximately 100 transfers were awaiting the approval of the charter. Today, the branch has 279 members.

This is just the tip of the iceberg on the history of the Kanata Branch. Since then, the branch has become a cornerstone of the community, being there for our veterans, seniors and youth. Now, being mortgage free will allow the branch to continue with its success for many years to come and be a model for other branches.





Remarks by Comrade Garry Pond

I bring you greetings from District G Council members and all our other 62 branches in our great District G.

I would like to congratulate you all on this milestone in the history of Branch 638. I remember being posted to Ottawa, back in 1988 from Petawawa. I met and worked in the same office with George Pollock that year. I knew he was a very busy military guy. Like most of us, he was doing things in the community and for most military people, this is second nature. I had no idea he and his comrades were up to the creation of a Legion branch and low and behold all these years have gone by.

On behalf of my wife Linda and I, thank-you for the invitation to attend this wonderful occasion today.

Remarks by Comrade George Wood



Thank you for the invitation to attend this ceremony today. I bring you greetings from our Zone Commander, soon to be Deputy District Commander, Dave Cormier,

along with congratulations from all of Zone G6 Council.

It is great to see so many here today to celebrate this auspicious occasion. After all, it's not every day that a mortgage is paid off.

As you reach this significant milestone in the history of Branch 638, you should be very proud of your accomplishment. I understand that this mortgage was paid off well before the due date and that was only because of the hard work and dedication of your members.

I wish you well in all your future endeavours and am sure this branch will continue to bring credit to Zone G6.

Branch History by Comrade Ivan Hawley

I became involved with our mortgage situation in the mid-90s. At that time we had a first mortgage with Granville Savings and Loan of a little over \$300,000, a City of Kanata lien of a quarter of a million payable if we ever sold the property, a second mortgage with CIBC of close to \$80,000 and a third mortgage with PRITEC (the builder) of around \$35,000. We were able to make payments only on the first mortgage.

There was a fear that any morning there would be a foreclosure sign on the door and the locks changed. That was bad enough, but then the city began demanding payment of property taxes. Our first president decreed that Legions did not pay

property taxes, but the city did not see it that way.

With the threat of the property being seized for taxes owing, a small contingent (Frank Valentine, Harry Riley and Ivan Hawley) drove to Toronto to meet with the VP of Granville Savings and Loan.

Mr. Mendelson assured us that Granville had no intention of foreclosing on us. Further, the other mortgagers had no authority to foreclose. He asked how much we owed the City of Kanata (around \$24,000). He then advanced those funds, adding it to our mortgage. The happy trio headed home and consequently many Legion moveable objects stored in members' basements and garages returned to the branch.

We were still able to pay only the first mortgage about a year later when Granville advised us that they were getting out of the mortgage business and that they would need their money by the end of October. Our banker at the Royal Bank was keen to take it on, and we agreed, as we did all our business with them. The trouble was that he had no authority to write a commercial mortgage--the arrangements would have to be done downtown. I met with the rep. and all looked good. They needed some more info, which we supplied. Each week I checked on progress and the bank painted a rosy picture. First it was a few problems then down to a few Ts to cross--then nothing.

Time was running out, so I went to our local bank to meet with the mortgage rep. I was introduced to a three-foot wide lady sitting behind a four-foot deep desk. I asked what was going on and she said,

"Oh, we are not giving you a mortgage. Didn't anyone tell you?" After I picked up my jaw off the desk, she asked,

"What are you going to do now?" My first thought was to leap across that big desk and grab her by the throat--but I didn't.

Meanwhile, Canderell, who owns the Kanata North Business Park, had been courting us with the objective of turning our property into a grand entrance to the park. They would build a new

home for us behind Kelly's Funeral Home. Even the city was on side, but Canderell had signed nothing. They learned of our mortgage problem and offered to take it over. That way they were able to keep their options open. However, in the next two years the glow of high tech was gone, the new city said they would not pay for lighting at a new inter-section, etc. We were looking for a new mortgager.

The second and third mortgage holders agreed to accept 75 cents on the dollar, so we were looking for \$400,000. Harry had talked to a few local bankers and they were all keen, but none had the authority. The Royal assured us, it would be different this time. We made the application with the Ottawa office and I

gave them four days to respond--no pretending this time! By the end of the week they admitted that they would not give us a mortgage. Regardless of the debit equity ratio (it could be as low as 20:1) they did not wish to mortgage a service organization with no one individual to hold accountable, and a foreclosure would be terrible P.R.

I approached two local, Legion-friendly lenders, but their money was all tied up. The mortgage brokers were hesitant as that bleep bleep quarter million lien came before the extra \$100,000 on the mortgage we were asking for. I stumbled across Caisse Populaire, who said they would consider us. They wanted \$1,000 to do the investigation. With nowhere else to turn, we paid and prayed.

It worked. We persuaded the new city to drop the lien, and with Shawn Traversy getting us on the map for catering and hall rental, we never looked back.



There is a link on our web site showing the actual mortgage burning, www.kanatabr638.ca



Ivan and Kathleen Hawley



Recruit a new member into the Legion for the chance to enter our prize draws of a Caribbean Cruise or iPad! The contest runs May 01 through July 31, 2015.



With every **NEW MEMBER** you sign up, you can register in the contest online for another chance at winning our grand prize of a Caribbean Cruise! Plus you and the new recruit will be automatically entered into a draw for an iPad!

Information can be found at:

www.legion.ca/onebyone

Please contact Brenda Grant, Membership for further information.

French Legion of Honour Nomination Deadline Extended

In 2014, the Embassy of France awarded the Légion d'honneur to more than 600 Canadian Veterans who served in the campaign to liberate France. I am pleased to inform you that the Government of France has extended the nomination deadline for the Légion d'honneur to July 31, 2015. The Embassy of France is looking for candidates who took part in the battles and military operations surrounding the landings in Normandy and Provence during the liberation of France mainly between June 6 and August 31, 1944. The Department of Veterans Affairs would like to invite you to participate in the nomination of candidates for this prestigious decoration. You will find a French Legion of Honour Nomination Form_2 at this link (<http://rcfassociation.ca/about-us/governance/national-executive-council-nec-directors-and-officers/chief-executive-officers-daily-report/>), and a Nomination-Letter-Embassy-of-France.pdf describing the extension deadline of the Légion d'honneur nominations. All nominations must be received by Veterans Affairs Canada no later than July 10, 2015, at the following address: Veterans Affairs Canada, Commemoration Division, Attention: Jaime Cote, 66 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0P4

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Executive Director at 1-866-351-2322 ext. 221

From the Ladies' Auxiliary

The L.A. held their elections on May 6, and the following members were elected for 2015-2016:

President	- Angie Jacklin
Past President	- June Tyrrell
1st Vice	- Judy Homma
2nd Vice	- Suzanne St John
Treasurer	- Betty Ann Pollock
Sgt at Arms	- Lorraine Lapensée
Secretary	- To be appointed
Executive	- Bev Connell, Mary Jo Gauthier, June Tyrrell

Eight L.A. Members attended the Zone Convention in Perth on Sunday, May 3. There was only one position to fill this year, and Marilyn Devlin, President of Perth L.A., was elected Deputy Zone Commander.

Our book sale at Friday's Fish and Chips is going very well, and we are asking for donations of books, CDs and DVDs.

Submitted by outgoing President, June Tyrrell

70th Anniversary of WWII

Photos are courtesy of branch secretary, Lorraine Lapensée.



MC, Dan Knighton, 1st VP



Guest Speaker Thomas Dent, WWII Veteran



President, John Cher, & WWII Veteran Thomas Dent



WWII Veteran John Gooch & granddaughter, Karen Szabo



WWII Veteran Wally Kasper & wife, Ruth



WWII Veterans Bill Hoy & Bob McGee



WWII Veteran Bert Fox, Annette Edelson & WWII Veteran Jack Edelson

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.

CONTACT! is edited by Lorraine Elmas
(lorraine_elmas@yahoo.ca)



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?



Stay in the driver's seat, but trust the research to me. With over 9 years hands on experience, I can help you arrive at the right choice for you and your family!

Amy McConnell
www.teaandtoast.ca
613.406.6031

Tea & toast

Howdy, Partners!

Ya'll invited to a **Country Fair Dinner & Dance**, **June 13, 2015, 5:30 p.m.**, hosted by the Ladies' Auxiliary; their **20th annual fundraiser!** Everyone is invited!

- Enjoy a fun evening!
- Bid in the Silent Auction with mystery packages, too!
- Judge the best decorated cake!
- Enjoy delicious Chicken Kiev & Salad Dinner!
- For your entertainment pleasure, **the Troubadour of Folk Music, Doug Smith, will be singing Folk, Country, Irish, Scottish songs and much more!**

Only \$25.00/person! No tickets! Reserve on or before May 29, 2015, by completing a reservation slip for each person attending and mail with your payment to the attention of: Betty Ann Pollock, 32 Turret Court, Kanata, Ontario K2L 2L1 or drop it off at the Kanata Legion. Copies of reservation slips are available at the bar, or to receive by email, call Lorraine Lapensée at 613-831-8319.

Kanata Legion & Ladies' Auxiliary Upcoming Events May 23, 2015 - June 13, 2015

DATE & TIMES	EVENT	DETAILS	TICKETS	CUT OFF DATE FOR TICKETS
Sat. May 23/15 Reception: 12:00 p.m. Fashion Show 1:00	Ladies' & Men's Spring Fashion Show & High Tea	Moore's Men's Clothing Alia N TanJay Women's clothing; Jewellery, Bags, Fascinators, Scarves, Nails	\$18.00 / person or two for \$30.00	Tues., May 19, 2015
Sun. May 31/15 5:30 p.m.	Legion & Ladies' Auxiliary Honours & Awards Presentations & Dinner	Honours & Awards Presentations 5:30 p.m.; Spaghetti Dinner to follow; Dress code: Uniforms/medals or business attire	No tickets. Donations are welcome! Please R.S.V.P. at the Kanata Legion 613-591-5570 if you plan to attend by Tuesday, May 26, 2015.	R.S.V.P. by May 26, 2015
Sat. June 13/15	Ladies' Auxiliary's 20 th Annual Fundraiser "Country Fair"!	5:30 reception; silent auction, dinner & dance & more!	No tickets instead reservation slips \$25.00/person	May 29, 2015