



The Bullytin

Valley City Branch 36

The Royal Canadian Legion

February - 2024

Branch 36 Veteran honored on Remembrance Day



Branch 36 Veteran Leo Shaidle takes the parade salute after the 2023 Remembrance Day Parade and service.



Phone: (905) 627-7221 Email: rclbr36@cogeco.net

<http://www.br36dundas.org>

President's Report

Comrades,

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas Vacations and New Years! Welcome back!

We've been pretty fortunate with the weather this season!! I'm sure before long, snow will be upon us. Stay safe, clear your snow, and dress for the cold winter ahead.

We are already off to a busy start at the Legion this year!! I think The Catch the Ace Campaign is putting us on the map! We are having fantastic weekly turn outs at the Wednesday night draws. We have celebrated a few milestones with Free Beer Tasting from the Shed Brewery, and Free Pizza from Dominos. If you haven't checked out Catch the Ace, come on in on Wednesday's between 4:30 and 7:30pm to buy your tickets. Stick around for some fun and see who wins the weekly draw! as long as the ACE of spades is out there, we will be here every Wednesday until the jackpot is won!

We are in need of more volunteers / executive members at the Branch. As people age, and step down or move on we need to replace them! We have a few executive positions that will open up in the next elections. We need you as a Member, to join us and keep the Legion going. It only takes a few hours a week. If you would like to volunteer or join the executive, please show up at the General Elections meeting on Wednesday, 1st May, 2024. The more people we have, the less work for all!

Current Vacancies: Poppy Chair, Canteen Chair, House Chair

All the best in 2024!!!

Notice to Members: Next General Meeting is scheduled for 8pm on Tuesday, 19th March, 2024. Members attending General Meetings can ask questions, bring their interests to light and engage in decisions voted on at the meetings.

Janice Mancini - President Branch 36



**Janice
Mancini
President**

Youth Education Report

Every year before November 11, some schools and their students submit submissions for our Annual Remembrance Poster & Literary Contest.

Last June, we conducted our second Branch ceremony, with many students receiving certificates, medals, and cash awards for their essays, poems, and posters.



**Tony
Bratschitsch
Youth
Education
Chair**



The young students attended our Branch ceremony above. I also attended Rehoboth Christian School a week later to make separate presentations to groups of junior and senior participants.



Those assemblies had approximately 200 students and teachers paying tribute to Remembrance Day

Tony Bratschitsch - Youth Education Chair

Poppy Fund Report

The Poppy Fund collected the amount of approximately \$70,000 during the 2023 campaign.

With the absence of Jim Byron this year, a very big thank you goes out to Chris Slote for stepping up and making the campaign a success for 2023.

Thank you also to Greg Sherring and Mark Mainprize for helping Chris. Chris also had help from his brother-in-law Doug, and his 2 sisters. Thanks to each of them.

Thank you to all the Poppy Volunteers, Members who supplied food and the merchants that allow our boxes on site. We are now in the midst of reconciling the books and will have a full report in the next few weeks.

Janice Mancini – President Branch 36

Branch 36 New Year's Eve Celebration



Dancers celebrate New Year's Eve at the Branch 36 New Year's Eve Celebration.

Canteen Report

At last!!

Al Ingram is returning to his position of Bar Steward on 15th January, 2024. Al was enjoying an extended summer vacation while we held down the fort.



**Janice
Mancini
Canteen
Chair**

Welcome back Al, and welcome also to our newest Bar Steward, Jeanette Rankin. Jeanette is covering every other weekend in the Clubroom, and our Monday Night Mixed Dart League. Welcome aboard Jeanette!

Janice Mancini - President and Canteen Chair

Sports Report

Happy New Year from Legion Sports.

Our inter-Legion events have started early this year. Congratulations goes to Mark Johnson, Darryl Doolittle, Doug Lappin and Jim McLaren for qualifying for district snooker by coming in second at zones.



**Stan
Sklepowicz
Sports Chair**

Big congratulations to Rick Webster, Doug Johnson, Mike Horner and Brian Mitchell for winning zone darts thus allowing Branch 36 to host next year. Rick also advanced to district singles darts by finishing second.

The teams of Dave Thomson and Jason Lewis and with the help of Bob Clayborne and Stan Sklepowicz qualified for district doubles and teams, respectively.

Further events are upcoming and are posted on our bulletin board and the legion webpage.

Stan Sklepowicz - 2nd Vice President and Sports Chair

Veterans Services Report

Comrades, as your Branch Service Officer I can best assist the Veterans of our branch by identifying those with unmet health needs and possible benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada(VAC) and all referrals are kept confidential.



Rick Valois
Veterans
Services
Chair

To take the first step to your possible VAC benefits contact the Branch for an appointment.

Rick Valois - Veterans Services Chair

Banquet Hall and Wentworth Room Rental

The Banquet Hall is available for rental at a cost of \$650.00. This includes the Bar Steward, glasses, tables and chairs. The Hall can seat up to 160 people with a capacity of 295. For details, please email the Legion office at rclbr36@cogeco.net

The Wentworth Room is available at no charge for all Branch 36 Members in good standing.(current membership). Non-members will pay a fee of \$200.00.

The Wentworth Room will accommodate up to 70 people. For details, please email the Legion office at rclbr36@cogeco.net

Please note: No outside alcohol, pop, juice or water are allowed. Anyone bringing any of these liquids into the building will be asked to leave the premises immediately. This includes prize packages containing any alcohol products. Any alcohol used for games such as a Toonie Toss. Liquids need to be substituted or can be handed out after your event off Branch 36 property.

Colour Party Report

An exciting year 2023 turned out to be as we attended 2 new parades for us.

We joined the Chippawa Branch from Niagara Falls where we lead the Annual Welland Rose Parade in June and our inaugural entrance in the Dundas Cactus Parade and again having the Colour Party from Chippawa join us on our home turf.



Greg Sherring
Colour Party
Commander

Last November's Remembrance Day Parade was a big success with many changes and additions that occurred before, during and after the parade.

The Colour Party would like to thank everyone that participated in the draws after the Remembrance Day Parade and during the Christmas Eve afternoon get-together in supporting the branch Colour Party's expenses. Just so you know, the support that you're giving us helps immensely, because we are now the only operating Colour Party in our Zone.

From the Colour Party to each and every one of you - Happy New Year.

Watch for us in 2024 as we will be present at: Honours & Awards Banquet(5th April), Branch Election(1st May), "Liberation of The Netherlands" 80th Anniversary Parade at the Hamilton Warplane Heritage Museum(5th May), D-Day Church Service(2nd June), Welland Rose Festival Parade, Brantford Military Museum Open House, Dundas Cactus Parade(15th August), Sobeys (Ancaster) for the Poppy Campaign and our Annual Remembrance Day Parade(11th November).

Greg Sherring - Colour Party Commander

Food Bank Contributions well received

Thank you for your many contributions to our Food Bank Drive over the Christmas season.

Everything was given to the Dundas Salvation Army for distribution.

Your generosity shows that Branch 36 members assist their fellow citizens and it was greatly appreciated.

Special Events Report

Happy New Year everyone, 2024 is arriving just as 2023 left us - BUSY.

The Branch Executives have already been planning this year's events.



Greg Sherring
Special Events
Chair

On Wednesday evening at the “Catch the Ace Draw” you can try your luck for a big weekly prize, and also, a chance to win the Grand Prize, now over \$50,000

On Fridays you can enjoy the Fish Fry, Trivia, Beef on a Bun, or Euchre.

On Saturday you can come and take part in the Meat Draws.

A golf tournament is in the works, and we now have an automated 8-Ball pool table in the clubroom,

The Colour Party is receiving bookings for this year's festivals and parades.

The Honour & Awards Veterans Banquet is on Sunday April 7, and the “D-Day” Church Service will be on Sunday June 2.

Greg Sherring - Special Events Chair

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Membership Report

In the summer of last year Charlie Parsons agreed to come on to the membership committee, and as a past officer of the branch he had a good idea of how much work was involved; however, in October my health took a wrong turn and I am unable to continue as chairman.



**Charlie
Parsons
Membership
Co-Chair**

Charlie has stepped up and along with Bev Westoby (who does all the paper and computer work, which takes a few hours) the 2024 membership year looks to be as successful as last year. A lot of this success comes from the co-operation of you the members - Thank You!

However! There are still about 125 people who have not renewed for 2024. Please do so. It will keep us the largest branch in the District and make it a little easier for Charlie and Bev.

Thank You for all your co-operation over the years.

P.S. Charlie is also looking after Bursaries. I am still available by phone at 905 628 2822.

Charlie Parsons and Mike Alkerton - Membership Co-Chairs

To the membership

Please be reminded that 2024 dues are now due. You are no longer in good standing if your dues are not paid by January 31, 2024.

You can send a dues cheque for \$55.00 to the Branch by mail, or drop it in our mail box, or pay online (go to Legion.ca web site and follow the guide for paying dues).

If you know someone who was in the armed forces or RCMP they can get 1 year membership "free". Go to Veteran Welcome program at Legion.ca.

Any questions call Mike at 905-628-2822

Charlie Parsons and Mike Alkerton - Membership Co-Chairs

Ladies Auxiliary Report

Wishing everyone a healthy 2024. The Ladies Auxiliary continues to be very busy between Fundraiser, Community Support and Sports.



Sue Sklepowicz
Ladies
Auxiliary
President

Recent Events

- Food Drive and Donation gift cards to local grocery stores.
- Donation to Salvation Army to support a family in need at Christmas with Food and Presents.
- Very successful Christmas Raffle. Thanks again to all who participated and an extra Thank You for all the wonderful donations.
- Held our 3rd Paint Night which again was very well attended.

Ongoing Events

- Beef nights: 4th Friday of the month, January through May 5:30-7:30.
- Starting in February the Friday night Euchre will return to after Beef Night on the 4th Friday of the month, and continue for the rest of the year whenever there is a Beef Night scheduled.
- Afternoon Euchre: 1st and 3rd Thursday 1:00 pm.

Upcoming Plans

- Purses for Women: we will be accepting donations end of March/April. Stay tuned for more information.
- Next Paint Night: Friday 19th April.
- Craft Market and Tea Room: 4th and 5th May. Currently looking for vendors
- Tupperware Bingo: 10th May.
- Spring BBQ raffle: Draw to held on last Beef night 24th May.

Sports

- Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting District Team Sports on Saturday, 6th April. We will be looking for volunteers to be scorekeepers for this event. If you are interested, please let me know.

Sue Sklepowicz - President Ladies Auxiliary - 905 537-7862

Entertainment Report

We closed out the year with the Mudmen appearing on 2nd December, 2023. We had a sell out and a great crowd. It's safe to say the Celtic music was a big hit. On 24th December, we had our usually Christmas Eve party with DJ Jane, sandwiches, and the annual Colour Party Raffle. The year ended with DJ Mark bringing in the New Year with a bang!



Debbie Gibbins
Entertainment
Chair

Be sure and get your tickets for the Valentines Dance being held on Saturday, 10th February, 2024 featuring our sell out favourite oldies band, Little Peter and the Elegants. We are putting food back on the menu this year! Tickets are on sale for \$25 at the bar, or can be purchased at the door for \$30.00.

On Saturday, 16th March, 2024 we welcome back DJ Jane

Continued on page 15....

Honours and Awards Report - 2024

Legion and Ladies Auxiliary Honours and Awards and Veterans Luncheon will be held on Sunday, 7th April, 2024 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE).



Sue Sklepowicz
Honours and
Awards Chair

Doors will open at 12 noon and lunch will be served at 1.00 pm. Tickets go on sale at the clubroom bar between Monday, 4th March till Sunday 31st March, 2024.

If you believe you are due a service pin given in 5-year increments, (e.g.: to receive a 5-year pin you must be in your sixth year of being a member) and don't see your name posted or hear from us, please contact me ASAP.

Susan Sklepowicz - Honours and Award Chair - 905 537 7862

Christmas Eve Open House well attended at Branch 36



Members enjoy refreshments at Christmas Eve Open House.

Circle of Life

Cremation and Burial Centre Inc.

Karin Schuett

karin@circleoflifecbc.com

100 King Street East, Dundas, ON, L9H 1C4 - Tel: 905-628-8558 - Fax: 905-628-0804

Memorials - Monuments - Grief Counseling - Pre-Planning - Seminars - Pet Funerals

Paul Wright Photography

pwright.photo

905-928-2087
paul@pwright.photo

Public Relations Report

The creation of “The Bullytin” newsletter is quite easy. There are template files for each month. I copy the file for February, 2024 by copying the February template. The Branch Executive writes reports that I put into the February file. The file then goes to UPS in Westdale and copies are printed and folded.

The printed copies are then “stuffed” into envelopes by Volunteers and put out for pickup by members. I hope I have made you more aware of how the newsletter is created. If you have questions feel free to contact me.

Peter Whittaker - Public Relations Chair



**Peter
Whittaker
Public
Relations
Chair**

Ways and Means Report

Comrades,

As I write this we are in week 22 of our Dundas Catch the Ace and the Ace has not been won ! and the jackpot is expected to reach \$50,000.

We are seeing good attendance at the Legion for the Wednesday Night draws resulting in a significant increase in bar sales. We have seen a considerable number of customers who have never been to The Legion before and are coming for the Draw, quite a few are coming in groups which makes it a fun night.

Thanks everyone for your support in purchasing tickets and a special thank you to the Catch the Ace team, Janice Mancini, Bill Ralston and Stan Sklepowicz, and our colleagues at the Dundas Terry Fox Run Nicole, Amy, Tina and Jenn.

Tickets are on sale at dundascatchtheace.com and can also be purchased every Wednesday at the Legion 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Peter Howard - 3rd Vice President and Ways and Means Chair



**Peter Howard
Ways and
Means Chair**

Sick Report

January - 2024

Jim Byron - Hamilton General - No Visitors

Mike Alkerton - Home

Bill Ralston - 1st Vice President and Sick
and Last Post Chair



Bill Ralston
Sick and
Last Post
Chair

Last Post

George F. Haddock(Fish) - 3rd November, 2023

Marilyn Latchford - 12th December, 2023

Peter Shepherd - 6th December, 2023

William "Gary" Reichheld - 3rd January, 2024

We Will Remember Them

Note: "Thanks" to those Legion members who show up and take part in Legion Services held for our Veteran members

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for our annual St Paddy's Dance. Wear your green, drink your green, and get your dancing shoes on for a night of fun with DJ Jane Watson. No charge for this dance, just bring a canned good for the food bank.

Believe it or not, Easter falls on 1st April this year! How foolish is that? No fooling, we will be closed Monday, 1st April, 2024.

Stay tuned in May for our Summer BBQ updates for June, July, & August. We are sure to be cooking up something tasty this summer!

Debbie Gibbins - Entertainment Chair

St. Augustine Students Tour Branch 36



On Wednesday, 8th November, 2023, Doug Rivers - Past President, Mark Mainprize - Cadet Liaison, Chris Slote - Poppy Fund Co-Chair and Peter Howard - 3rd Vice President took students from the Grade 3-4 class at St Augustine's school in Dundas on a tour of Valley City Branch 36 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Dundas with an emphasis on Remembrance.

Branch 36 Upcoming Events - February 2024

President's Meat Draw - Every Saturday - 3-4pm

Weekly Meat Draw - Every Saturday - 4:30pm

Catch the Ace Draw - Every Wednesday - 8pm

February 2024

Thursday - 1st - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30p

Friday - 9th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Friday - 9th - Progressive Euchre - Register 6:30pm - Play at 7pm

Saturday - 10th - Valentine Dance - Door opens 7pm - Music at 8pm

Thursday - 15th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 16th - Trivia Night - Sign up 7:00pm - Start 7:30pm

Monday - 19th - Family Day - BRANCH CLOSED

Friday - 23rd - Beef on a Bun - 5:30pm-7:30pm

March 2024

Thursday - 7th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 8th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Friday - 8th - Progressive Euchre - Register 6:30pm - Play at 7pm

Friday - 15th - Trivia Night - Sign up 7:00pm - Start 7:30pm

Thursday - 21st - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 22nd - Beef on a Bun - 5:30pm-7:30pm

Friday - 29th - Good Friday - BRANCH CLOSED

Sunday - 31st - Easter Sunday - BRANCH CLOSED

April 2024

Monday - 1st - Easter Monday - BRANCH CLOSED

Thursday - 4th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Sunday - 7th - Veterans and Honours and Awards Luncheon - 12noon

Friday - 12th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Friday - 12th - Progressive Euchre - Register 6:30pm - Play at 7pm

Thursday - 18th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 19th - Trivia Night - Sign up 7:00pm - Start 7:30pm

Friday - 26th - Beef on a Bun - 5:30pm-7:30pm

May 2024

Wednesday - 1st - Branch Elections - All Members must Vote - 8pm

Thursday - 2nd - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 10th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Friday - 10th - Progressive Euchre - Register 6:30pm - Play at 7pm

New Legion members are always Welcome

Call or visit the Branch for more information